

CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

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**THE DAY THE
WORLD DIED!**

**SPIRIT OF
FRANKENSTEIN**

**THE
VAMPIRE'S
PREY**

**THE MAN WHO
TRIED TO
LIVE FOREVER**



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CHILLING

TALES OF HORROR

FEBRUARY 1971

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 2

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The VAMPIRE'S PREY



WHAT IS IT A VAMPIRE SEEKS IN THE MUFFLED HOURS BEFORE DAWN? IS IT A SLEEPING VICTIM WHOSE ONLY WARNING OF THE RUSTLING WINGS COMES IN A TROUBLED NIGHTMARE...OR IS IT SOMETHING WORSE? A STRANGE MURDER LEADS A YOUNG REPORTER TO THE ANSWER...THE TERRIFYING SECRET OF

The VAMPIRE'S PREY!

THE NEXT TIME WE'VE GOT A DATE, BOB...I WISH YOU'D TELL YOUR EDITOR TO SEND SOMEONE ELSE OUT ON HIS OLD NEWS BEAT!

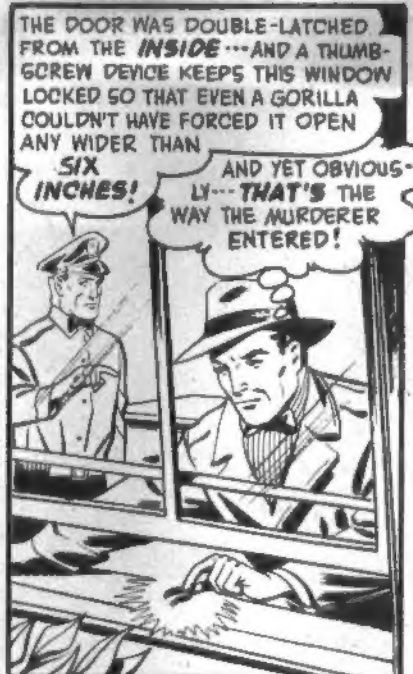
DAILY TELEGRAPH

LOOK, HONEY...THIS STORY'S IMPORTANT! DR. DUDLEY VERNON'S BEEN MURDERED...AND THE WHOLE THING'S A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO THE POLICE!

I REMEMBER READING ABOUT DR. VERNON ONLY LAST WEEK! DIDN'T HE DISCOVER SOMETHING CALLED CORPOSENE?

RIGHT...IT'S A COMPOUND THAT'S IDENTICAL TO HUMAN BLOOD! BEING ARTIFICIAL, IT CAN'T STIMULATE THE BRAIN TISSUES...BUT OTHERWISE, IT'LL BE USEFUL FOR EMERGENCY TRANSFUSIONS!





**MINUTES
LATER...**

SORRY, BOB... THERE ISN'T A
WORD ABOUT VAMPIRES! HERE'S
THE LAST ENTRY---DATED A WEEK AGO:
"ONLY ONE MINOR SUBSTANCE
MAKES MY COMPOUND A DANGEROUS
ACID. IF I CAN FIND A WAY TO
REMOVE IT WITHOUT AFFECTING
THE REST OF THE SOLUTION...
CORPOSENE WILL BE THE
EXACT CHEMICAL COUNTER-
PART OF HUMAN
BLOOD..."

GUESS DR. VERNON'S JOURNAL WON'T
BE MUCH OF A HELP AFTER ALL, TRUDY!

BOB! GOOD HEAVENS
---WHAT'S THAT?



THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, HONEY
---BATS ARE A DIME A DOZEN ON WARM
EVENINGS LIKE THIS!

I KNOW THAT... BUT I NEVER
SAW ONE THAT GAVE OFF A
SPOOKY GLOW!



SUDDENLY, THE GLOW BRIGHTENS---AND AS A
HIDEOUS CONVULSION SEIZES THE BLACK SHAPE---

BOB... THAT DIABOLICAL
THING'S CHANGING
SHAPE!



YOU CAN STOP WONDERING ABOUT VAMPIRES **NOW!**
AFTER READING YOUR NEWSPAPER STORY, I
DECIDED IT WAS TIME YOU LEARNED WHAT IT
MEANS TO MEDDLE WITH
ME---**SANGRINI!**

SOMETHING'S...
WRONG! I... CAN'T
THINK CLEARLY!



HE'S BEEN **HYPNOTIZED!**...FOR HEAVEN'S
SAKE, BOB...**FIGHT IT OFF!**

THAT'S A PROOF OF MY
POWERS---I HAD BARELY
STARTED TO BRING HIM UNDER
MY CONTROL! HE CAN'T RESIST---
HE'S GOING TO DRIVE TO THE
OLD MANSION ON WILLOW HILL
---AND THERE I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW **HUMANS** CAN BECOME
A VAMPIRE'S PREY!

SOON AFTERWARD ---AT AN OLD HOUSE HUDDLED IN THE SHADOW OF TERROR---

WHAT ARE **THOSE** THINGS? WHY DON'T THEY MOVE--- WHY DON'T THEY SAY SOMETHING?



THEY'RE ZOMBIES---AND IT WAS FOR **THEM** THAT I KILLED DR. VERNON ---AND SEIZED BOTH THE **CORPOSENE** AND THE **FORMULA**!



A VAMPIRE MUST HAVE **PURE BLOOD** ---UNCONTAMINATED BY ANY **FOREIGN SUBSTANCE**--- AND WHERE CAN IT BE FOUND IN AN AGE WHEN **EVERYONE** HAS BEEN INOCULATED OR OTHERWISE INJECTED WITH **CHEMICALS**? BUT BY RAISING A BAND OF **NEWLY DEAD** AND PUMPING **CORPOSENE** INTO THEIR VEINS... I'VE FOUND THE **PERFECT SOLUTION!**



A ZOMBIE NEEDS ONLY THIS MUCH **CORPOSENE**---AND THEN WILL **CONTINUE** TO PRODUCE IT **AUTOMATICALLY**. NOT ONLY WILL THEY SUSTAIN ME FOREVER--- BUT THEY'LL REMAIN COMPLETELY **UNDER MY CONTROL!**

WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU CAN SAY FOR ME, CREEP!



TRUDY---GET THE CAR MOVING!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT---AS THE ZOMBIES ADVANCE WITH INHUMAN SNARLS---



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BOB--- WHAT REVIVED YOU?

I ONLY **PRE-TENDED** TO BE HYPNOTIZED, HONEY---THEREBY PREVENTING SANGRINI FROM **REALLY** GOING TO WORK ON ME! AS FOR THIS VIAL---IF SANGRINI CAN RESTORE CORPSES TO LIFE WITH AN INJECTION OF CORPOSENE, SO CAN WE---AND THE BODY WE'RE GOING TO WORK ON WILL BE DR. VERNON'S!

SOON AFTERWARD---

ARE YOU SURE WE'LL FIND DR. VERNON'S BODY **HERE**, BOB?

YEP---THE CORONER ALWAYS HANDLES MURDER CASES! LET'S SEE---**ONE** OF THESE SKELETON KEYS OUGHT TO WORK!

CORONER'S OFFICE

OH!

I CAN PROBABLY FIND A HYPODERMIC IN THAT CABINET---AND THEN MAYBE **YOU'D** BETTER WAIT OUTSIDE!

THEN---AS BOB STEELS HIMSELF FOR AN ORDEAL FEW HUMANS HAVE EVER FACED---

MOMENTS LATER---

BRACE YOURSELF, TRUDY---**HERE HE IS!**

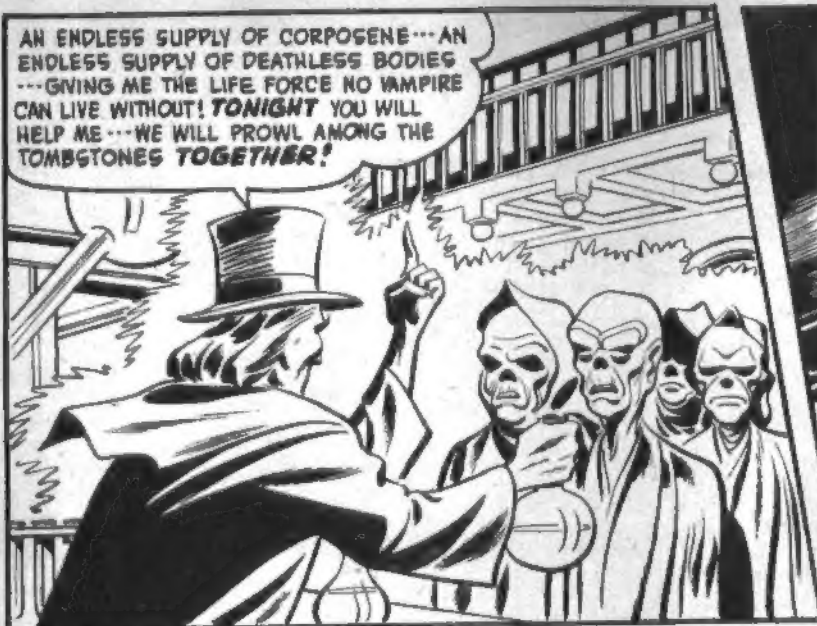
BUT IF IT'S TRUE THAT CORPOSENE CAN'T RESTORE HIS MENTAL PROCESSES---HE'S NOTHING BUT A **ZOMBIE!** WE CAN'T RISK TAKING HIM TO SANGRINI'S LAIR---ONCE HE COMES UNDER THE EVIL INFLUENCE EXERTED BY THE PLACE---WHO KNOWS **WHAT** WILL HAPPEN?

JUST THE SAME---DR. VERNON'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN RELEASE THE DEAD FROM SANGRINI'S POWER! I'M GOING TO TAKE A CHANCE, AND SHOW HIM THE HORROR OF THAT PLACE---AND RELY ON THE FACT THAT THE FORCE OF RIGHT IS ON **OUR** SIDE!

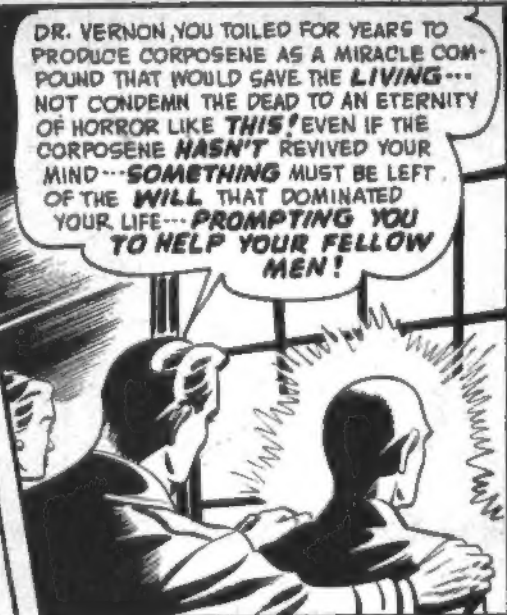
AS THE MOON PEERS DOWN AT THE HAVEN OF HORROR---

HA HA HA! NOTHING CAN CHECK ME NOW, ZOMBIES---**SANGRINI WILL LIVE FOREVER!**

AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF CORPOSENE...AN
ENDLESS SUPPLY OF DEATHLESS BODIES
---GIVING ME THE LIFE FORCE NO VAMPIRE
CAN LIVE WITHOUT! **TONIGHT** YOU WILL
HELP ME...WE WILL PROWL AMONG THE
TOMBSTONES **TOGETHER!**



DR. VERNON, YOU TOILED FOR YEARS TO
PRODUCE CORPOSENE AS A MIRACLE COM-
POUND THAT WOULD SAVE THE **LIVING**...
NOT CONDEMN THE DEAD TO AN ETERNITY
OF HORROR LIKE **THIS!** EVEN IF THE
CORPOSENE **HASN'T** REVIVED YOUR
MIND...**SOMETHING** MUST BE LEFT
OF THE **WILL** THAT DOMINATED
YOUR LIFE...**PROMPTING YOU**
TO HELP YOUR FELLOW
MEN!



IF YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD...IF YOU'RE READY TO
HELP...**YOU KNOW THE METHOD!** YOUR
JOURNAL MENTIONED A SUBSTANCE THAT
HAD TO BE REMOVED BEFORE COR-
POSENE WAS SAFE...AND **HERE'S**
YOUR CHANCE TO TAKE US TO YOUR
OFFICE...AND **SHOW US WHAT**
IT IS!



SLOWLY AND FIRMLY...THE LIFELESS FIGURE DRAWS ITS
ARM FROM BOB'S GRASP!

BOB...HE DIDN'T
LISTEN! **THERE'S**
WHERE HE WANTS
TO BE...**INSIDE**
...**WITH THEM!**

DR. VERNON...**WAIT!**
THIS'LL MEAN SACRIFICING
US AS WELL AS YOUR-
SELF!



AS BOB MAKES A DESPERATE LUNGE...

STOP...YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING!

IMPS OF THE IN-
FERNO! THEY'RE BACK
...**WITH DR. VERNON!**



MORTALS...AND THEY THINK THEY CAN KEEP DR.
VERNON FROM JOINING ME...NOW THAT HE KNOWS
THE POWER I'VE GAINED FROM CORPOSENE! SEIZE
THEM...AND THIS TIME...**MAKE SURE THEY**
DON'T ESCAPE!





IN THE NEXT SECOND...



GOOD HEAVENS, BOB... HE'S CHANGED INTO A BAT AGAIN!

YEP... AND THIS TIME IT'S FOR KEEPS!



AS THE FLAPPING CREATURE VANISHES IN A FIERY FLASH...

YOU MEAN THIS IS THE END OF SANGRINI? BUT NOW?

THERE'S THE SUBSTANCE THAT MADE CORPOSENE A DANGEROUS ACID... AMMONIA! BUT IT'S AN ACID THAT COULD ACT ONLY ON CORPOSENE IN LIVING TISSUES... LIKE SANGRINI'S!

CRRAK!



THEN DR. VERNON DIDN'T FAIL US, BOB!

RIGHT! HE TOOK A CHANCE ON YOUR FAINTING WHEN THE ZOMBIES CLOSED IN... SO HE COULD TRICK SANGRINI INTO UNCORKING THE BOTTLE! AND NOW THAT THE ZOMBIES ARE NO LONGER UNDER SANGRINI'S FIENDISH CONTROL... BOTH THEY AND DR. VERNON WILL RETURN TO THEIR RESTING PLACES!



WE'LL FIND THE CORPOSENE FORMULA AMONG SANGRINI'S PAPERS... AND SEE THAT IT'S USED AS DR. VERNON INTENDED! THAT MUCH HE CAN BE SURE OF... NOW THAT HE AND THE OTHER DEAD ARE RETURNING TO THE HAVEN OF THE BEYOND!



NEXT BOB... WE MIGHT AS WELL FORGET THIS WILD VAMPIRE ANGLE OF YOURS! SINCE THE POLICE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PROVE DR. VERNON WAS MURDERED... THEY'VE DECIDED HIS DEATH WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES!

FOR ONE THING... THEY FOUND THAT CORPOSENE FORMULA WASN'T MISSING, AFTER ALL!

O.K., CHIEF... WE MIGHT AS WELL LET IT GO AT THAT! AFTER ALL... NOW MANY PEOPLE DO BELIEVE IN VAMPIRES!



THE SWAMI'S SECRET

Since the long-past age when wizards crouched in their musty dens, spiritualists have tried to lure phantoms through the hushed portals of the **UNKNOWN!**

How could this be done? That was the Swami's secret -- a secret that promised untold power -- but it was a dread power no human can control!

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT A SPIRITUALIST-- BUT NOW THAT I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH **SWAMI HESHUG**-- I HATE TO THINK OF WHAT **MIGHT HAPPEN!**

INSIDE -- ALONE WITH THE CREAKING FLOOR BOARDS--THE SWAYING DRAPES--AND THE GLINTING EYES OF **SWAMI HESHUG!**

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR AMAZING POWERS FROM FRIENDS, SWAMI-- AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUMMON THE SPIRIT OF MY UNCLE!

HE DIED SIX YEARS AGO!

AH, YOUNG LADY -- HE HAS BEEN WAITING FOR THIS MOMENT! PLEASE STAND BESIDE THE CRYSTAL BALL -- AND AFTER I HAVE GONE INTO A TRANCE -- YOUR UNCLE'S GHOST WILL RISE!

THEN -- AS THE SWAMI'S VOICE DRONES INTO THE GLOOM --

I AM SURROUNDED BY SPIRITS... ONE OF THEM RECOGNIZES A FAMILIAR FACE... IT IS CROSSING OVER -- INTO THIS ROOM!

OH, HEAVENS -- I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!

SUDDENLY -- BOTH GLOOM AND TRANCE DISSOLVE IN A FLASH OF LIGHT!

IMPS OF TOPHET -- WHAT'S THAT?



NICE GOING, TRUDY! I THINK I'VE GOT THE PICTURE WE'RE AFTER!

PICTURE! HOW DARE YOU SUBJECT MY SPIRITS TO PUBLIC GAZE!



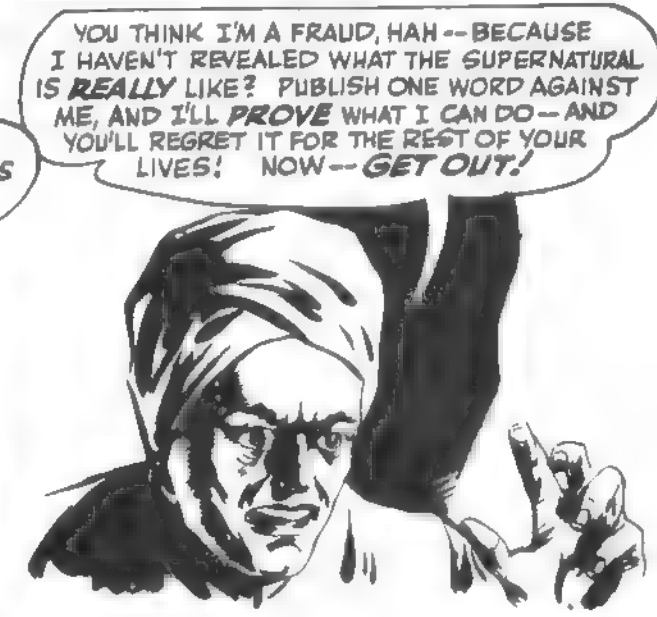
GAUZE WOULD BE MORE LIKE IT! THERE'S STUFF!

SEE THIS PEDAL? IT SENDS HOT AIR RISING FROM THE FURNACE TO THE CRYSTAL BALL—UNDER ENOUGH PRESSURE TO PUSH THE GAUZE THROUGH THAT SMALL HOLE! JUST GOES TO PROVE HOW MUCH YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH WITH HOT AIR -- HEY, SWAMI?

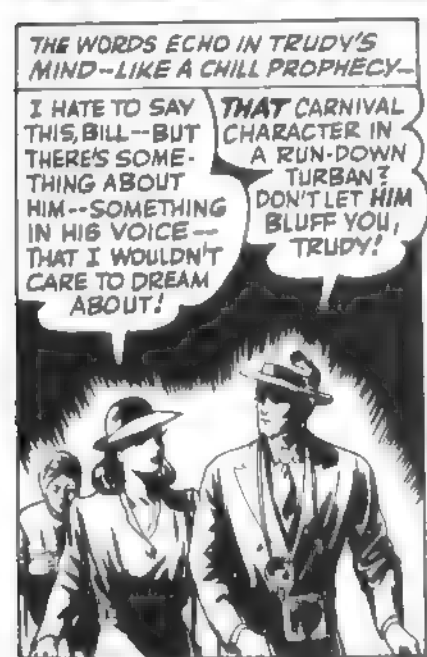


WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

WE'RE BILL CARLTON AND TRUDY ROLAND OF THE "GRAPHIC"—AND IT MEANS WE'RE EXPOSING THE SPIRITUALISM RACKET YOU'VE BEEN WORKING FOR FIFTEEN YEARS! YOU'VE PREYED ON THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, SWAMI-- AND WE'RE GOING TO SHOW YOU UP—JUST AS WE WOULD ANY OTHER CRIMINAL!



YOU THINK I'M A FRAUD, HAH -- BECAUSE I HAVEN'T REVEALED WHAT THE SUPERNATURAL IS REALLY LIKE? PUBLISH ONE WORD AGAINST ME, AND I'LL PROVE WHAT I CAN DO -- AND YOU'LL REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES! NOW -- GET OUT!



THE WORDS ECHO IN TRUDY'S MIND--LIKE A CHILL PROPHECY--

I HATE TO SAY THIS, BILL--BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HIM--SOMETHING IN HIS VOICE-- THAT I WOULDN'T CARE TO DREAM ABOUT!

THAT CARNIVAL CHARACTER IN A RUN-DOWN TURBAN? DON'T LET HIM BLUFF YOU, TRUDY!



THAT NIGHT, THE STORY APPEARS--BUT ANOTHER ONE OCCUPIES THE HEADLINES!



WHAT LUCK! THEY WOULD EXECUTE A VICIOUS KILLER LIKE HARRIS JUST IN TIME TO TAKE THE HEADLINE AWAY FROM OUR STORY!

TOUGH BREAK, BILL--BUT THAT HARRIS STORY IS THE KIND OUR READERS WANT! HE'S BIG NEWS -- RIGHT DOWN TO HIS EXECUTION AND BURIAL!

WE WANT A FOLLOW-UP ON "CAT" HARRIS--SOMETHING THAT WILL DRAMATICALLY SYMBOLIZE A KILLER'S END --**A PHOTOGRAPH OF HIS GRAVE!** IT'S FOR THE MORNING EDITION, BILL -- SO YOU'LL HAVE TO DRIVE OUT TO THE CEMETERY TONIGHT!



WOW! I'VE HAD SOME GRIM ASSIGNMENTS LATELY-- BUT PROWLING AROUND A CEMETERY AT NIGHT CERTAINLY TOPS 'EM!

JUST TO KEEP UP THE OLD TEAM SPIRIT -- I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU!



MEANWHILE--WHAT OF THE SWAMI'S THREAT? SO FAR-- HE HAS MERELY GLANCED AT THE PAPER --

SO THEY **DID** EXPOSE ME, HAH? THOSE MEDDLING REPORTERS HAVE RUINED A PROFITABLE CAREER-- AND, BY BEELZEBUB-- **THEY'LL PAY!**



AND THEN --

WHAT'S **THIS** IN THE HEADLINE? THEY'VE EXECUTED "CAT" HARRIS -- AND THAT MEANS HIS SPIRIT HAS BEEN RELEASED-- **CHARGED WITH THE SAME VICIOUSNESS THAT MADE HARRIS A RUTHLESS KILLER!**



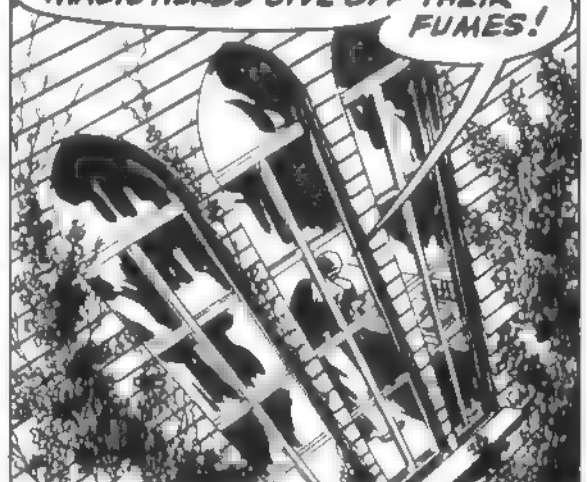
YES, THE HATE-RIDDEN GHOST OF "CAT" HARRIS WON'T BE AT REST UNTIL IT TAKES ITS REVENGE -- **AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT MYSELF!** HERE'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN SAVING FOR JUST THIS MOMENT-- **THE SECRET METHOD USED BY THE ANCIENTS TO RAISE EVIL SPIRITS!**



HERE'S THE VERY FORMULA SET DOWN BY CORNELIUS AGRIPPA--OVER FIVE HUNDRED YEARS AGO! FIRST -- EXACT AMOUNTS OF CORIANDER, HENBANE, AND HEMLOCK -- NEITHER TOO MUCH NOR TOO LITTLE -- MUST BE KEPT SMOLDERING ON A FIRE --



THEN, AS THE SMOKE THICKENS, I WILL GO INTO A TRANCE -- AND CONDUCT THE SPIRIT OF "CAT" HARRIS TO MY RETREAT! **IT WILL OBEY ME -- AS LONG AS THE MAGIC HERBS GIVE OFF THEIR FUMES!**



SOON AFTERWARD-- WITH THE MOON BROODING
OVER THE CEMETERY LIKE A GHOSTLY EYE --

HOPE WE WON'T HAVE TO
SEARCH FOR HARRIS'S
GRAVE, BILL --IT MIGHT
TAKE **HOURS!**

PERK UP, HONEY--
THE POLICE GAVE ME
THE PRECISE SPOT!



AT THE FRESHLY-TURNED MOUND--

I KNOW THERE'S NOTHING
REALLY SPOOKY ABOUT A
CEMETERY-- BUT SOMEHOW,
I CAN'T CONVINCE MY
NERVES!

THAT'S A **FINE**
WAY TO TALK-- RIGHT
AFTER HELPING ME
DEBUNK SWAMI
HESHUG!



SUDDENLY--

FEEL THAT, TRUDY? THE
GROUND SEEMS TO BE
SHAKING!

BILL--LOOK!
THERE'S SOME KIND
OF TERRIBLE GLOW
COMING FROM
THE EARTH!



AND THEN -- BARELY SEEN IN THE DRIFTING MOONLIGHT--

BILL!

EASY...
I SEE IT!



I DON'T LIKE THE WAY IT'S
STALKING US-- BUT I WANT
MORE PICTURES OF THAT
THING! KEEP CLEAR, TRUDY!



AS THE STRANGE SHAPE
HOVERS SILENTLY CLOSER--

BILL--LOOK OUT!
DON'T LET IT
GET YOU!



UNEXPECTEDLY--

FUNNY! HERE I AM, HELPLESS--
AND **THAT THING IS**
VANISHING!



NOW THE GRAVEYARD HOLDS NOTHING BUT SHADOWED TOMBSTONES--AND AN ODD FEAR!

I'D LIKE TO THINK IT WAS A TERRIBLE HALLUCINATION, TRUDY-- BUT THAT SHRUBBERY I FELL INTO IS **HAZEL**--ONE OF THE FEW THINGS THAT CAN CHECK AN EVIL SPIRIT!

WE **DID** SEE HARRIS'S GHOST, BILL-- BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING **ELSE** THERE, TOO! SOMETHING INVISIBLE-- AND SINISTER!



WHY DID I **FEEL** SOMETHING EVIL-- WHEN I COULDN'T SEE IT? WAS IT ALL IMAGINATION, BILL?

THERE'S **ONE** WAY TO FIND OUT! I'LL DEVELOP THE FILM AS SOON AS WE GET BACK TO THE "**GRAPHIC**"!



AN HOUR LATER--IN THE DARKROOM--

BRACE YOURSELF, TRUDY--AND TAKE A LOOK!

GOOD HEAVENS! I **DID** SENSE SOMETHING BESIDES HARRIS-- BUT IT CAN'T BE **HIM**!



BUT IT **IS**! HOVERING DARKLY ABOVE THE GRAVE--AS IF SUMMONING WHAT LIES BELOW---



SWAMI HESHUG!

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE -- BUT REMEMBER THE SWAMI'S THREAT? SOMEHOW, HE'S MANAGED TO RAISE "CAT" HARRIS'S SPIRIT-- AND THEY'LL MAKE A DEADLY TEAM!

IT **STILL** SOUNDS LIKE A CRAZY DREAM! PEOPLE JUST DON'T **SEE** GHOSTS NOWADAYS!



CALM DOWN, LADY -- AND LOWER YOUR WINDOW BLINDS! IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A PIECE OF NEWSPAPER BLOWING DOWN THE STREET--OR MAYBE SOMEONE'S IDEA OF A JOKE!



I'M BEGINNING TO WONDER WHETHER THAT STORY ON SPIRITUALISM HASN'T DONE MORE HARM THAN GOOD! THAT'S THE FOURTH PHONE CALL I GOT ABOUT SOMETHING **CREEPY** PROWLING DOWN BROOKHAVEN ROAD!

BROOKHAVEN ROAD! THAT'S THE WAY TO SWAMI HESHUG'S HOUSE!





PLEASE, BILL--TAKE THAT PICTURE TO THE POLICE-- BEFORE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENS!

THAT WOULDN'T HELP! EVEN IF I *COULD* CONVINCE THE POLICE THAT THE PHOTO ISN'T A TRICK SHOT COOKED UP FOR A GAG-- *THEY* HAVEN'T ANY MORE CONTROL OVER THE **SUPERNATURAL** THAN YOU OR I! NOPE-- I EXPOSED SWAMI HESHUG IN THE FIRST PLACE -- AND I'M GOING TO SEE THIS THROUGH -- NO MATTER **WHAT** HAPPENS!



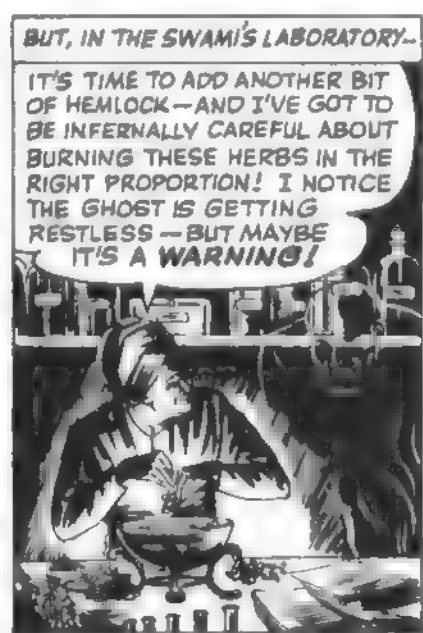
ALL RIGHT--WE'LL **BOTH** SEE IT THROUGH! ONLY I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER ABOUT TACKLING THE SWAMI IF WE HAD A SPRIG OF THAT **HAZEL**!

WE **HAVE**! I HAD A HUNCH, BACK AT THE CEMETERY, THAT IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY!



A HALF-HOUR LATER--ITS GABLES RISING AGAINST THE MIDNIGHT SKY LIKE A CLUTCHING HAND--

WE'D BETTER SNEAK UP QUIETLY, TRUDY-- WITHOUT GIVING THE SWAMI A CHANCE TO STAGE ANY SURPRISES!



BUT, IN THE SWAMI'S LABORATORY--

IT'S TIME TO ADD ANOTHER BIT OF HEMLOCK--AND I'VE GOT TO BE INFERNALLY CAREFUL ABOUT BURNING THESE HERBS IN THE RIGHT PROPORTION! I NOTICE THE GHOST IS GETTING RESTLESS -- BUT MAYBE IT'S A **WARNING**!



SO **THAT'S** THE REASON! NOT IN MY WILDEST HOPES DID I EXPECT **THOSE** TWO TO COME **HERE**! WHAT A CHANCE FOR MY REVENGE ON **THEM**!



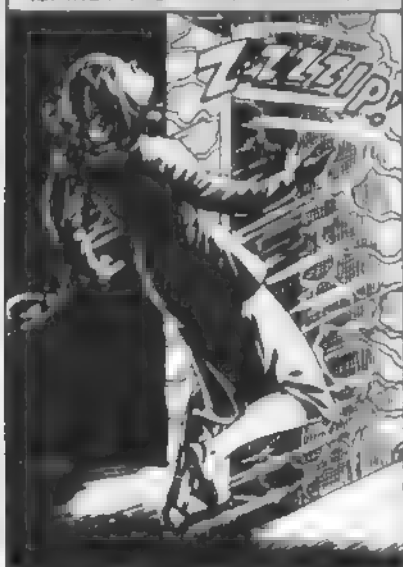
I WON'T TURN HARRIS LOOSE ON THEM **YET**-- NOT UNTIL THE MECHANICAL FEATURES I USE FOR MY FAKE SEANCES HAVE PROVIDED A LITTLE HAIR-RAISING ATMOSPHERE!



A MOMENT LATER-- HUG THE WALL WHILE I TRY TO FORCE THIS WINDOW -- SO YOU WON'T BE SPOTTED FROM ABOVE!

BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW THE DANGER'S **ABOVE**, BILL? SUPPOSE IT'S DOWN HERE -- **NEAR US**?

THEN--AS TRUDY LEANS AGAINST THE DARK MASONRY--



TRUDY! I THOUGHT I HEARD HER MOVING-- BUT SHE'S DISAPPEARED!



SHE COULDN'T HAVE WALKED OUT OF SIGHT IN JUST A FEW SECONDS! THE SWAMI'S GOT HER--AND I'M TAKING THE QUICKEST WAY IN!



CATCHING ON THE JAGGED GLASS, THE HAZEL TWIG DROPS FROM BILL'S POCKET--THE ONE THING THAT CAN STAVE OFF THE LURKING EVIL IN THE SWAMI'S LAIR!



AHEAD--NOTHING BUT A STAIRWAY RISING ENDLESSLY INTO THE GLOOM--AND A DISTANT HUM!

NO USE WONDERING WHAT MAKES THAT STRANGE WHIRRING NOISE--OR WHERE THESE STAIRS LEAD! I'M GOING UP!



MINUTES PASS -- AND STILL --



I DON'T GET THIS! I KEEP CLIMBING--AND THERE'S NOTHING AHEAD BUT STEPS!

MEANWHILE--

I WOULDN'T BE SO TERRIFIED--EVEN WITH THAT THING STARING AT ME--IF I ONLY KNEW BILL WERE SAFE!

WONDERING ABOUT OUR YOUNG FRIEND, HAH? HE'S TRYING TO GET UP THE CELLAR STAIRWAY--AND HE'LL KEEP TRYING UNTIL HE DROPS--BECAUSE IT'S AN ESCALATOR THAT DESCENDS AS FAST AS HE CLIMBS!



GOADED INTO AN ANGER GREATER
THAN FEAR—

I'M NOT GOING TO
STAND HERE—AND
LET YOU TORTURE
BILL WITH YOUR
HORRIBLE
SCHEMES!

YOU THINK
THAT'S ALL,
HAH? JUST
WAIT!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT--

OOOPS! I'LL BE
JIGGERED! THESE STEPS
HAVE BEEN MOVING DOWN
--AND THEY'VE
SUDDENLY STOPPED!



IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO THROW
A SWITCH--BUT NOW--LET'S
SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO
AGAINST THE SPIRIT
OF "CAT" HARRIS!

HERE'S WHERE THE
SWAMI LEARNS ABOUT
HAZEL TWIGS! GREAT
GUNS-- I'VE
LOST IT!



AS THE PHANTOM HOVERS CLOSER--

OH, BILL--
DARLING!

NOW THAT YOU'RE TOGETHER,
YOU'VE CERTAINLY GOT THE
MATERIAL FOR A GRIPPING NEW
ARTICLE ON GHOSTS--IF YOU
LIVE LONG ENOUGH
TO WRITE
IT!



JUST IN CASE WE CAN'T STOP THE
PHANTOM-- I MIGHT AS WELL TAKE
CARE OF YOU WHILE I HAVE
THE CHANCE!



SHADES OF SHEOL -- MY ENTIRE SUPPLY OF
MAGIC HERBS IS BURNING! THERE'S NO
TELLING NOW WHAT THE GHOST WILL--
WHAT'S THAT?



LIKE THE SHADOW OF DOOM
REARING THROUGH THE MURK--

STOP!

IT'S GROWN LARGER--
FIERCER--AND IT'S
TURNING ON
ME!



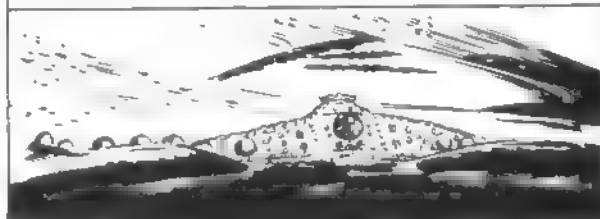


The Belt of Evil



THE ANCIENT BELIEFS OF **ZOROASTRIANISM** TELL OF A BATTLE WAGED HIGH ABOVE THE CLOUDS BETWEEN **ORMAZD**, THE SPIRIT OF GOOD.. AND **AHRIMAN**, THE SPIRIT OF EVIL.. AND IT IS WRITTEN IN THE 30TH BOOK OF **YAGNA** THAT ORMAZD GAINED SUPREMACY OVER AHRIMAN BY SLASHING OFF THE GOD OF EVIL'S MAGICAL AND INDESTRUCTIBLE BELT...

WHICH THEREUPON FELL TO THE MESOPOTAMIAN DESERT BELOW, DESTINED TO BE COVERED UP BY THE SANDS OF TIME...



UNTIL DISCOVERED AEONS LATER IN AN EXCAVATION IN MODERN-DAY IRAN BY A SLAVIC ARCHEOLOGIST NAMED IVAN GUBITCHEV!

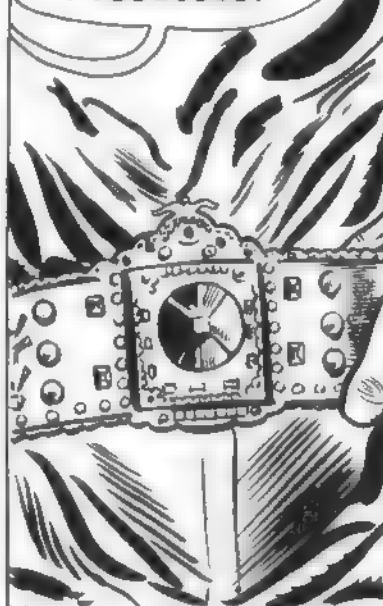
I'VE FOLLOWED THE CLUES IN THE OLD LEGENDS-- AND FOUND IT AT LAST! BUT HOW CAN I BE SURE THAT IT'S **REALLY THE BELT OF AHRIMAN?**



I'LL-- PUT IT TO THE **TEST!** THE OLD TALES SAY THAT AHRIMAN WAS ALL-POWERFUL BECAUSE EVERY WISH OF HIS WAS GRANTED WHILE HE WORE THE BELT! I'LL SEE HOW I LOOK IN IT-- BY WISHING FOR A **FULL-LENGTH MIRROR!**



THIS IS THE SECRET WEAPON WHICH WILL ENABLE US TO CONQUER THE WORLD! BUT FIRST, BEFORE I WISH MYSELF BACK IN THE MOTHERLAND, WHY SHOULDN'T I HAVE SOMETHING FOR MYSELF? I WISH TO SEE BEFORE ME MORE PRECIOUS JEWELS THAN ANY MAN ON EARTH POSSESSES!



LOOK, AHMED-- JEWELS! THEY... THEY SPRANG UP FROM THE EARTH ALL AROUND US!

HA, HA-- NOW I WISH TO HAVE THE JEWELS BURIED IN THE GROUND-- SO THAT I CAN RETURN HERE AT SOME FUTURE DATE AND HELP MYSELF TO THE TREASURE!



BY THE BEARD OF THE PROPHET-- THE JEWELS VANISHED AS SOON AS I TOUCHED THEM-- AS IF THE EARTH SWALLOWED THEM UP!

THERE IS SORCERY HERE! LET US RIDE OVER THE DUNE TO LOOK FOR THE SORCERER-- AND IF WE FIND HIM, WE WILL MAKE HIM DIE THE DEATH OF A THOUSAND KNIVES UNLESS HE MAKES THE JEWELS APPEAR ONCE AGAIN!



THAT MUST BE HE-- SEIZE HIM

HA-- I WILL HAVE SOME SPORT WITH THEM-- MAY THEY PERISH BENEATH BURNING OIL DESCENDING FROM THE SKIES!



NOW TO RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND-- BUT WAIT-- I MUST BE CAREFUL! THE STRAIN OF THE INSTANTANEOUS FLIGHT MAY BE TOO GREAT! SO I WILL TRAVEL MORE LEISURELY -- IN THE STYLE OF THE ANCIENT LEGENDS' I WISH FOR

A **FLYING CARPET** THAT WILL TAKE ME ANYWHERE I DESIRE!



MOMENTS LATER-- WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING TO BE ALL-POWERFUL, TO HAVE THE SLIGHTEST WHIM INSTANTLY GRANTED! AND WHAT A GLORIOUS DAY IT WILL BE WHEN THE GENERALISSIMO USES THE BELT OF AHRIMAN TO ASSURE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S DEMOCRACIES! HA, HA-- I WOULD LIKE TO SEE **ANYONE** TRY TO STOP US FROM CONQUERING THE WORLD-- EVEN **ORMAZD** HIMSELF!



THAT WISH, TOO, WILL BE GRANTED, INFIDEL!

WHA--! THAT THAT MUST BE **ORMAZD**! BUT-- I. I DID NOT MEAN WHAT I SAID AS A **WISH**!



IT IS TOO LATE, EVIL ONE! I, ORMAZD, ONCE AGAIN BATTLE AGAINST THE POWER OF AHRIMAN!

NO... NO! DO NOT TAKE THE BELT AWAY! WITHOUT IT, I AM HELPLESS---



LET THIS BELT OF EVIL ONCE AGAIN BE BURIED BENEATH THE SANDS OF TIME!



AND SO ONCE AGAIN THE SHIFTING SANDS OF THE IRANIAN DESERT SLOWLY BUT RELENTLESSLY COVER THE BELT OF AHRIMAN! WHO WILL DISCOVER IT AGAIN? WILL IT BE YOU, READER?



THE MAN WHO TRIED TO LIVE FOREVER



TO LIVE FOREVER--THAT IS THE DREAM OF MANY MEN, BOTH GOOD AND EVIL! AND HERE'S THE STORY OF HOW ONE MAN ALMOST SUCCEEDED--BY USING THE TERRIFYING POWER OF **BLACK MAGIC!** IT'S A STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS TALE--BUT READ ON--AND SEE FOR YOURSELF!

ON THE STAGE OF A SMALL THEATRE--

LOOKS LIKE LARGO THE MAGICIAN IS ABOUT WASHED UP, JED!

YEAH--LISTEN TO THAT AUDIENCE BOO THE OLD GUY!

OLD STUFF! GIVE US SOMETHING NEW!

BOO!



AS THE FULL FURY OF THE AUDIENCE BURST FORTH...

SO THE FOOLS WANT SOMETHING NEW, EH? ALL RIGHT, I'LL GIVE IT TO THEM!

GET OFF THE STAGE, YOU FAKER!



THERE WAS A VIBRANT RING IN THE OLD MAGICIAN'S VOICE AS HE SHOUTED FOR SILENCE...

MY FRIENDS--WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN WAS JUST THE INTRODUCTION TO A MOST AMAZING ILLUSION! PREPARE NOW TO WITNESS LARGO'S GREATEST FEAT OF MAGIC!



THE AUDIENCE WAS SHOCKED INTO SILENCE BY THE UNEARTHLY LIGHT IN LARGO'S EYES--BY THE EERIE TONE OF HIS WORDS!

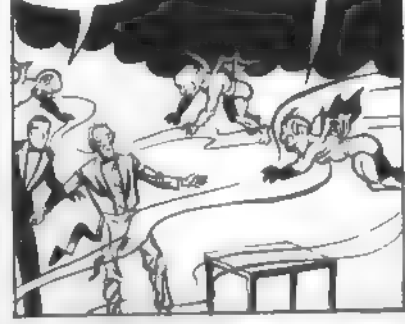
ARISE, YE SPIRITS OF THE EVIL OLD--I COMMAND THEE--COME FORTH!



SUDDENLY, A CLAP OF THUNDER SHOOK THE ENTIRE BUILDING! AS AN ACRID, BLACK CLOUD HOVERED OVER THE STAGE...

WHY DID YOU SUMMON US SO SOON, LARGO?

HIS TIME DRAWS NEAR--LET US TAKE HIM NOW!







Later...

BUT HOW CAN YOU BREAK UP THE ACT? YOU-- YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME!

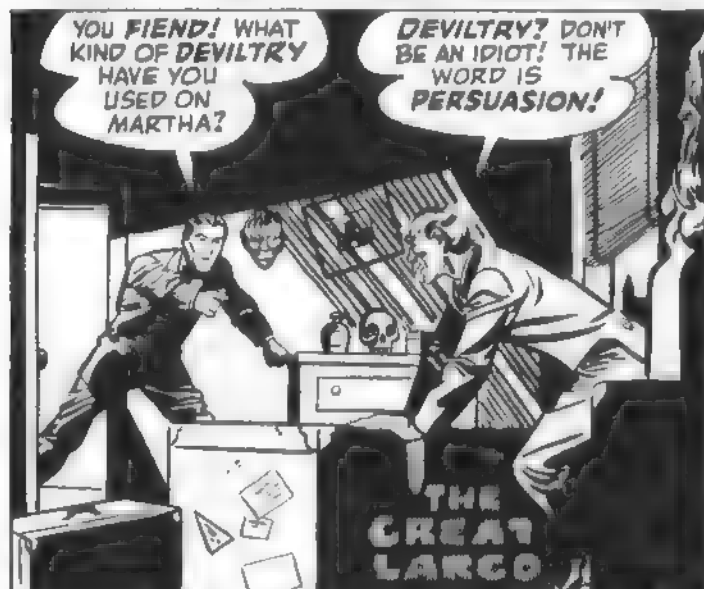
I-- MUST --GO-- WITH-- LARGO!

I-- I'M GOING! YOU CAN'T-- STOP ME!

GREAT SCOTT! HER EYES-- THEY'RE BLANK -- EMPTY! SHE'S HYPNOTIZED!



RAGING, JED BURST INTO LARGO'S DRESSING ROOM...



YOU FIEND! WHAT KIND OF DEVILTRY HAVE YOU USED ON MARTHA?

DEVILTRY? DON'T BE AN IDIOT! THE WORD IS PERSUASION!

THE GREAT LARGO



MARTHA REALIZES SHE HAS NO FUTURE WITH YOU -- I CAN MAKE HER FAMOUS!

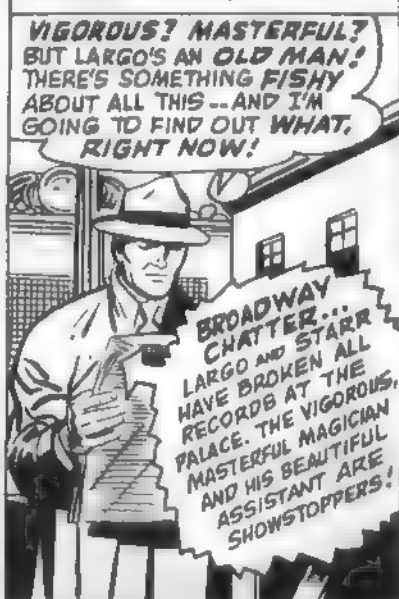
IF YOU WERE TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER, I'D MAKE YOU EAT THOSE WORDS! BUT AS THINGS STAND, I GUESS I'M LICKED!

AND SO, DESOLATE, JOE WATCHED THE GIRL HE LOVED DEPART!



I STILL THINK HE'S USED SOME SORT OF SPELL ON HER -- BUT FOR THE TIME BEING, I'M HELPLESS! I'LL BIDE MY TIME, AND SOME DAY...

SEVERAL WEEKS LATER...



VIGOROUS? MASTERFUL? BUT LARGO'S AN OLD MAN! THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT ALL THIS -- AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT, RIGHT NOW!

BROADWAY CHATTER... LARGO AND STARR HAVE BROKEN ALL RECORDS AT THE VIGOROUS PALACE. THE VIGOROUS MASTERFUL MAGICIAN AND HIS BEAUTIFUL ASSISTANT ARE SHOWSTOPPERS!



SOON AFTERWARD, AT THE PALACE THEATRE --

HOLD IT, YOUNG FELLA--
YOU CAN'T COME IN HERE
WITHOUT A PASS!

I'VE GOT TO SEE
MARTHA STARR--
IT'S URGENT!



UNEXPECTEDLY, A STRANGE LIGHT APPEARED IN
THE OLD DOORKEEPER'S EYES-- A LOOK OF
UNDERSTANDING!

THEN HURRY,
SON! -- PERHAPS
YOU CAN SUCCEED
WHERE
I FAILED!

HMM -- THAT OLD MAN
SEEMS TO KNOW
WHY I'M HERE!



OUTSIDE MARTHA'S DRESSING ROOM,
JED'S HEART LEAPED AS HE HEARD
HER VOICE -- BUT HE FROZE IN
HORROR AT THE WORDS!

PLEASE-- RELEASE ME FROM
THIS LIVING DEATH! HAVEN'T
YOU TORTURED ME ENOUGH
ALREADY?



GREAT SCOTT!
THE MAN'S A ---
WIZARD!

O SPIRITS OF THE EVIL OLD-- LET
HER YOUTH BE MINE! LET IT FLOW
THROUGH ME -- AND MAKE MY
BODY YOUNG AGAIN!



BENEATH
THE
MAGIC
SPELL,
MARTHA'S
FACE
SEEMED
TO
AGE--
AGE--



UNABLE TO CONTAIN HIS RAGE, JED CONFRONTED
THE MANIACAL SORCERER --

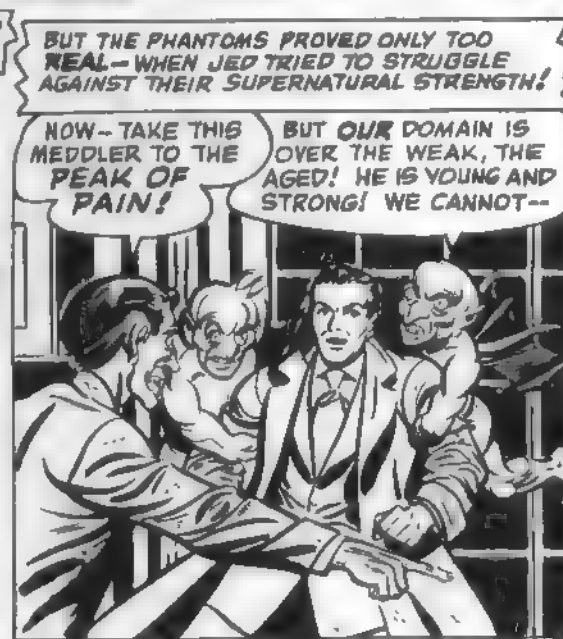
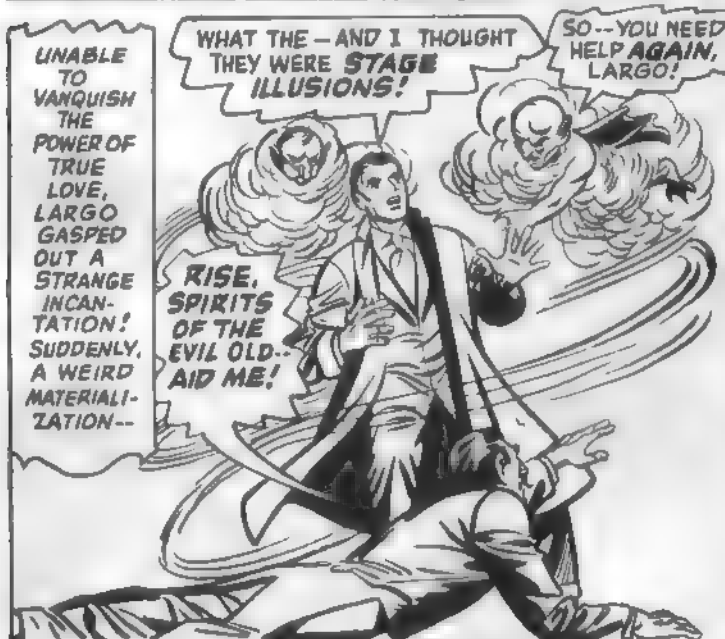
JED --
THANK
HEAVENS!

SO!--
YOU
AGAIN!

YES--AND NOW YOU'LL
ANSWER TO ME!



STRENGTHENED BY HIS LOVE FOR MARTHA, JED RECOVERED QUICKLY, TO FIGHT LIKE A MAN POSSESSED!



THROUGH INKY DARKNESS, OVER SPIRIT LANDS THAT NEVER SEE THE SUN, THE STRANGE GROUP SOARED -- UNTIL --



IN AN EERIE AND DESOLATE CASTLE--

HEART-BREAKING HOURS LATER--

SUDDENLY--

THEY'RE NOT TYING ME UP --
WHICH MEANS I CAN **EXPLORE**
THIS AWFUL PLACE! HEAVEN
KNOWS WHAT I'LL
FIND!

IT'S **HOPELESS!** NO HUMAN
BEING WOULD HAVE A CHANCE
OF ESCAPING FROM **THIS**
PLACE!

I'VE NOTICED THAT EVERY SOFTEN
THE SPIRITS BRING IN AN EVIL-
LOOKING OLD MAN-- WONDER
WHY? THIS TIME I'LL FOLLOW
THEM!



LOOKING FOR
A CLUE TO
HIS OWN FATE,
JED
FOLLOWED
THE WINGED
SPIRITS
AND THEIR
STRUGGLING
BURDEN
FAR INTO
THE
EERIE
DEPTHS
OF
THE
DANK
FORTRESS--
TO
WITNESS
AN
INCREDIBLE
CEREMONY!

SPIRIT OF EVIL -- IT IS TIME TO GIVE
UP THIS MORTAL BODY! -- **COME**
FORTH! JOIN YOUR BROTHER
SPIRITS!

IT...IT'S
UNBELIEVABLE!



A WEIRD TRANSFORMATION
BEGAN! BUT SUDDENLY --

LOOK! THE
PRISONER!
SEIZE HIM!

THEY'VE SPOTTED
ME -- AND IT'S NO
USE TRYING TO
RUN!

A MOMENT LATER -- BEFORE THE
WIZENED CHIEF OF THE
SPIRIT WORLD --

MORTAL -- YOU HAVE WITNESSED OUR
FORBIDDEN RITUAL! FOR THIS, YOU
MUST SUFFER THE UNTOLD
TORMENTS OF ETERNAL
PAIN! AWAY WITH
HIM!



STRIVING DESPERATELY TO AVERT A GHASTLY DOOM, JEFF CALLED UPON HIS LAST HOPE — A BLUFF!



WAIT! ARE YOU HERE LACKEYS? YOU'RE ONLY PUNISHING ME BECAUSE IT'S THE WILL OF YOUR MASTER, LARGO!

LARGO? — OUR MASTER? YOU LIE!

A STRANGELY HUMAN EXPRESSION OF RAGE CONTORTED THE FACE OF THE CRAFTY LEADER —

TRUE, LARGO DOES HAVE A MAGIC CONTROL OVER US — BUT IT WILL NOT LAST FOREVER! ONCE HE GROWS OLD, HE WILL BE OURS! THEN HIS TORTURE WILL BE DIRE — AND EVERLASTING!



HA! BUT YOU KNOW THAT HE IS ABLE TO REPLENISH HIS YOUTH! WHILE HE REMAINS YOUNG, YOU ARE HELPLESS AGAINST HIM! YOU ARE HIS SLAVES! BUT WITH MY HELP... YOU CAN DEFEAT HIM!



BRAVE TALK — FROM ONE ABOUT TO DIE! BUT SPEAK — WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?

GIVE ME MY FREEDOM — AND I PROMISE YOU THAT IN THREE DAYS, LARGO WILL BE AN OLD MAN! HE WILL BE YOURS! IF I FAIL, I WILL FORFEIT MY OWN LIFE!



AGREED! GO — BUT FAIL NOT — LEST YOUR PUNISHMENT BE MULTIPLIED TENFOLD! AND TAKE THIS ADVICE: FIND LARGO'S TIMETABLE!

AFTER A PERILOUS JOURNEY — BACK TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING —

THE THEATRE — AT LAST! BUT WHAT DO I DO NOW? I'VE STAKED EVERYTHING ON A DESPERATE GAMBLE AGAINST TIME! AND ALL I HAVE TO WORK ON IS THAT REMARK ABOUT LARGO'S TIMETABLE!



THE SPIRITS VANISHED, INTONING A MESSAGE OF DOOM!

THREE DAYS TO SUCCEED — OR YOU RETURN TO OUR REALM OF ANGUISH — FOREVER!



I'D BETTER GET STARTED — BY VISITING LARGO'S DRESSING ROOM!



MOMENTS LATER--

YE GODS!-- IT'S LARGO!
B-BUT HE'S SO YOUNG--
AND MARTHA, WHAT DOES
SHE LOOK LIKE
NOW?

NOT BAD--AS LONG
AS I CAN RENEW MY YOUTH,
THOSE CURSED SPIRITS
CAN'T TOUCH ME!



FOR A MOMENT, THE YOUNG ACTOR SANK TO
THE BLACK DEPTHS OF UTTER DESPAIR--

OH, MARTHA, DARLING -- I'VE FAILED YOU!
THE STRONGEST LOVE IS POWERLESS
AGAINST THIS EVIL **SORCERY!**

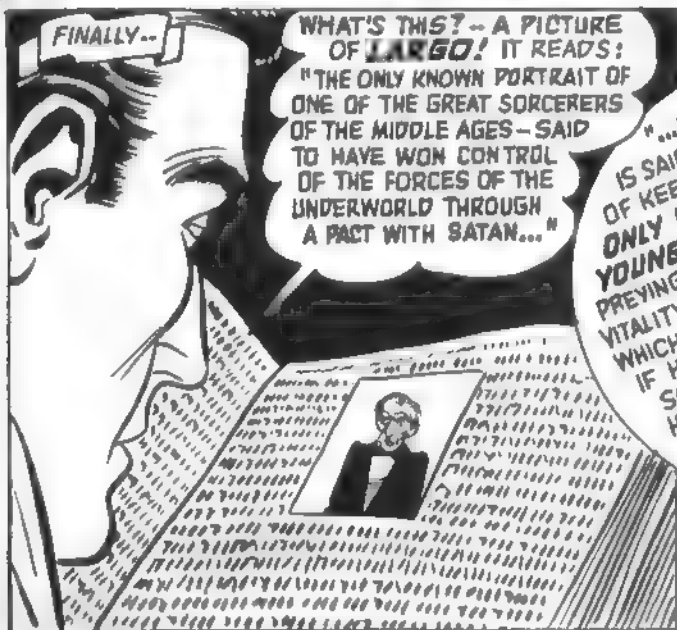
BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT, SOME PRIMAL
UNYIELDING FORCE WELLED UP IN HIS
OVERWROUGHT SOUL--

NO, I'LL **NEVER** SURRENDER--NOT
WHILE THERE'S A SHRED OF HOPE!
THERE MUST BE **SOME**
COUNTERACTING
FORCE FOR EVERY
DEMONIAC
POWER--AND
I THINK I
KNOW WHERE
TO LOOK!



THREE DAYS LATER -- AT THE LIBRARY
OF THE OCCULT --

THREE WHOLE DAYS--WASTED!
BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING--
THERE **MUST** BE A LEAD
HERE SOMEWHERE!



FINALLY--

WHAT'S THIS?--A PICTURE
OF **LARGO!** IT READS:
"THE ONLY KNOWN PORTRAIT OF
ONE OF THE GREAT SORCERERS
OF THE MIDDLE AGES--SAID
TO HAVE WON CONTROL
OF THE FORCES OF THE
UNDERWORLD THROUGH
A PACT WITH SATAN..."

"...THIS DEMON
IS SAID TO BE CAPABLE
OF KEEPING THIS CONTROL
ONLY WHILE HE REMAINS
YOUNG. THIS HE DOES BY
PREYING ON HUMANS WITH ENOUGH
VITALITY TO SUSTAIN HIM ... AFTER
WHICH THE VICTIM DIES OF OLD AGE.
IF HE SHOULD NOT FIND ANOTHER
SOURCE OF YOUTH **AT ONCE,**
HE WOULD SUDDENLY GROW OLD--
AND THE SPIRITS OF THE EVIL OLD
WOULD CLAIM HIM. NOW--
EVER, AS YET ... "

AS JED READ ON--WITH ICY HORROR
CREEPING ALONG HIS SPINE--

"...AS YET THERE IS NO
RECORD OF HIS DEATH!"

AND THIS BOOK--IT'S
THREE HUNDRED
YEARS OLD! NOW
MY CHANCES ARE
SLIMMER
THAN
EVER!





CLUTCHING AT EVERY STRAW, JED SUDDENLY RECALLED THE WORDS OF THE DOOR-KEEPER AT THE THEATRE...

THEN HURRY, SON--PERHAPS YOU CAN SUCCEED WHERE I FAILED!

WHAT DID HE MEAN BY HAVING FAILED HIMSELF? I'M GOING TO HAVE A TALK WITH THAT GUY!



AT THE THEATRE --

SO-- YOU'VE FINALLY COME-- I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU! YOU SEE, MY WIFE WAS ONCE LARGO'S PARTNER! HE HYPNOTIZED HER, TOO-- STOLE HER YOUTH! SHE DIED OF OLD AGE--AT THE AGE OF TWENTY!



I'VE WAITED FORTY YEARS TO WREAK VENGEANCE ON HIM -- BUT ALONE I AM HELPLESS! PERHAPS NOW-- WITH TWO OF US --WE CAN SUCCEED!

RIGHT! NOW TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT LARGO-- EVERYTHING!



LATER -- ... THAT'S ABOUT ALL I KNOW--EXCEPT FOR ONE THING! THE FIEND KEEPS A LITTLE BLACK BOOK IN A STEEL TRUNK--GUARDS IT WITH HIS LIFE!

IT MUST BE IMPORTANT, BUT I DON'T--

THAT'S IT! -- HIS TIMETABLE!-- IT TELLS HIM WHEN HE MUST REPLENISH HIS YOUTH! WE'VE GOT TO GET IT! BUT HOW?



LEAVE THAT TO ME! I WAS ONCE THE GREAT GALLA -- ESCAPE ARTIST OF VAUDEVILLE! I CAN GET THE BOOK EASILY-- BUT WHAT GOOD WILL THAT DO?

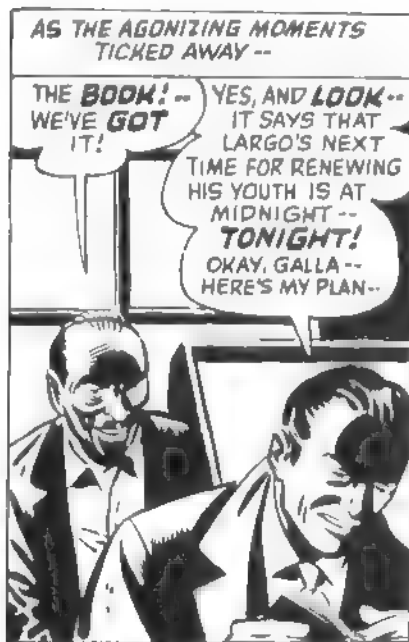
JUST GET IT! I HAVE A PLAN, AND ONLY A FEW MORE HOURS TO CARRY IT THROUGH!



THE LAST FATEFUL NIGHT-- THE END OF JED'S THREE DAYS OF GRACE! WITH FEVERISH HASTE, THE TWO MEN HURRIED TO LARGO'S APARTMENT--

THERE'S THE BOX! NOW, IF I STILL HAVE MY OLD SKILL --

IF YOU DON'T, MARTHA AND I ARE BOTH DOOMED! HURRY!



The DAY THE WORLD DIED

I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOUR WORKING OVERTIME, NED-- AND YOU TOO, JEAN! SOMEHOW-- I'VE HAD AN OVERPOWERING URGE TO GET THINGS DONE THESE PAST FEW WEEKS!

WE'RE GLAD TO HELP, DR. WILLARD-- BUT THIS PACE CAN BE DANGEROUS AT YOUR AGE! WE'LL STAY AN HOUR LONGER-- AND THEN WE'RE SEEING YOU HOME!

RADIOACTIVE VAULT
--KEEP OUT--

IMAGINE A SILENCE, AS IF THE EARTH HAD SUDDENLY BECOME A MUTED TOMB-- IMAGINE A VOID IN WHICH NOTHING MOVES-- NOTHING EXCEPT YOU AND A SINGLE COMPANION! THEN TRY TO PICTURE THE HIDEOUS CREATURES WHO SWARMED TO CLAIM OUR STRICKEN PLANET-- AND YOU'LL GET SOME IDEA OF HOW TERROR STALKED THE STREETS-- THE DAY THE WORLD DIED!

NED-- WE'VE BOTH KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT DR. WILLARD'S HEART IS FAILING-- THAT HE HASN'T MUCH LONGER TO LIVE! DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD MAKE HIM STOP?

NO SENSE DOING THAT, HONEY! WHY SHOULDN'T HE BE HERE WHEN THE END COMES, WORKING ON ATOMIC EXPERIMENTS TO WHICH HE'S DEVOTED HIS LIFETIME?

LET'S LOCK OURSELVES IN THE VAULT AND HAVE A CHECK WITH THAT GEIGER COUNTER, JEAN! DON'T WORRY ABOUT DR. WILLARD-- I'LL SEE TO IT THAT HE QUITS AS SOON AS HE'S WORKED OUT THAT MESON-SPLITTING PROBLEM!

NED! MAYBE BEING ISOLATED IN THIS VAULT IS GIVING ME DEVIATIONS-- BUT I ALMOST THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING LURKING AT THE OTHER END OF THE LAB!

WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE MICE? THE AIR IN THE LABORATORY'S HEAVILY CHARGED WITH ELECTRONS-- BUT THAT WOULDN'T ALARM THEM --AS IF THEY DETECTED A STRANGER!



THEN IT COMES-- THE THING THAT WILL CHANGE THE MEANING OF EVIL AND TERROR FOREVER!

GOOD LORD--
WHAT IS IT?

OVERWHELMED BY SHOCK, THE GASP-
ING WORDS AND
FALTERING HEART
FADE OUT TOGETHER
--AND AS DR.
WILLARD GLUMPS
AT THE CONTROL
PANEL--

AAAGH!

CLICK!

GPRAK!

NED-- IT'S
HIDEOUS!
THE VERY
SIGHT
OF IT
KILLED DR
WILLARD!

YE GODS-- THE
CYCLOTRON! THE
SWITCH HE ACCI-
DENTALLY THREW
SENT A SURGE
OF POWER THOUGH
IT-- STRONG
ENOUGH TO START
A MESON CHAIN
REACTION!

RUSHING FROM THE PROTECTIVE VAULT--

BUT AS NED RUSHES TOWARD THE CONTROL PANEL --

WHERE'S DR.
WILLARD'S
BODY? AND
THOSE CAGED
MICE, NED--
THERE'S NO
SIGN OF
THEM!

SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!
MESONS ARE THE THINGS
THAT UNITE ATOMS! THEY'RE
THE BASIC FACTOR OF
EXISTENCE-- I'VE GOT
TO SWITCH OFF THE
CYCLOTRON!

ME BEYONDER!
BEYONDER --
KILL -- YOU!

WAM!

DON'T WAIT, JEAN! IT'S
COMING CLOSER-- GET
OUT WHILE
YOU CAN!

NO, NED -- FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE
DON'T TRY TO COPE
WITH THAT THING
YOURSELF!
ANOTHER FEW
MINUTES WON'T
MATTER--
LET'S GET
THE POLICE!

EXPERIMENT
ROBOT
--
HANDS OFF!

YOU-- NOT ESCAPE!
BEYONDERS COME--
MANY-- MANY!

NED--
HURRY!

I'LL TRY TO KEEP MY NERVES UNDER CONTROL WHILE YOU CALL THE POLICE! NO USE MAKING PEOPLE PANICKY BY REVEALING WHAT'S INSIDE!

BABY--
WHAT
PEOPLE?
WHERE
ARE
THEY?

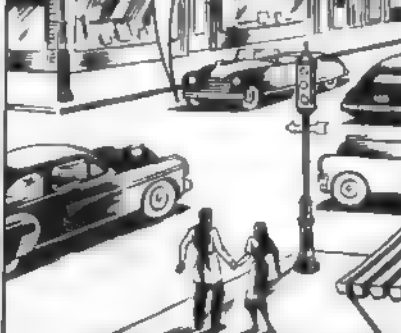
WILLARD
ATOMIC
LABORATORY

IN AN UNCANNY VACUUM--
WITHOUT SOUND OR
MOVEMENT--

LOOK! SHOPS--
CARS-- THEY'RE
ALL EMPTY,
JEAN! THERE
ISN'T A
SOUL
AROUND!

WE'VE GOT TO
FIND SOMEONE.
MONEY! THIS
COULDN'T
HAVE HAPPENED--
NOT TO A CITY
OF EIGHT
MILLION!

IT DIDN'T, NED--
IT DIDN'T!
I HEAR
VOICES--
FOOTSTEPS--
THERE ARE
PEOPLE!



THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT! THE LEAD-LINED VAULT PROTECTED US FROM THE MESON CHAIN REACTION-- BUT IT'S REMOVED ALL SIGNS OF LIFE FROM THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD!

YES-- AND IT MADE ME FEEL HORRIBLY ALONE FOR A FEW SECONDS! NOW AT LEAST THERE WILL BE A CHANCE TO GET SOME HELP-- AND THE MORAL SUPPORT OF JUST SEEING SOMEONE!

THEN--

BEYONDERS HAVE COME!
BEYONDERS HAVE COME!

OHH!



LIKE A RISING TIDE-- LIKE THE
NEARING BEAT OF DOOM--

THERE ARE
THOUSANDS
OF THEM,
NED--
COMING
FROM ALL
DIRECTIONS!

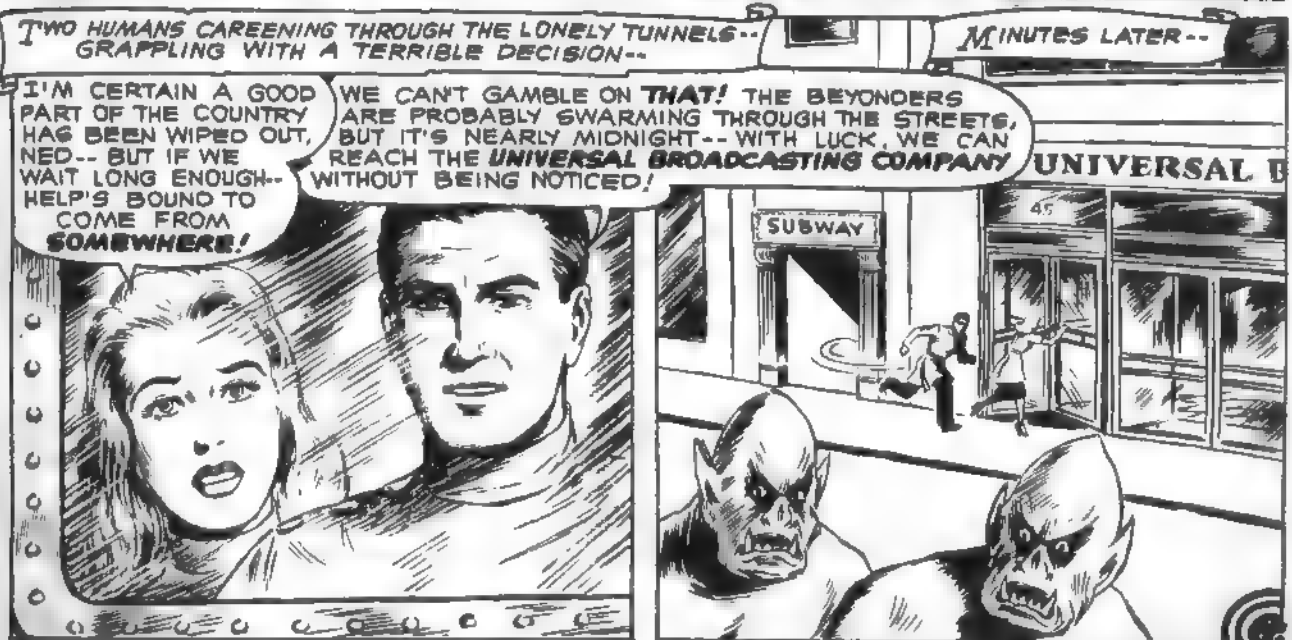
NOW I KNOW CATASTROPHE'S
HIT THE CITY! COME ON-- OUR
ONLY HOPE NOW IS TO
REACH THE ATOMIC ENERGY
COMMISSION IN
WASHINGTON
BY PHONE!

MINUTES LATER-- IN A NEARBY SUBWAY STATION --

HELLO! HELLO!--
JEAN, THIS DOESN'T
LOOK GOOD--
I CAN'T GET
THROUGH TO
WASHINGTON!

NO ANSWER AT ALL? THEN
IT ISN'T JUST THE CITY THAT'S
BEEN AFFECTED-- THE
MESON CHAIN REACTION
HAG HIT THE WHOLE
EASTERN SEABOARD!





IT'S USE-
LESS, NED--
YOU CAN'T
MANIPULATE
THE COMPLI-
CATED
BROAD-
CASTING
APPARATUS
ALONE!

MAYBE NOT-- BUT AT
THE STROKE OF TWELVE,
ALL THE MAIN STATIONS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
EXCHANGE CALLS!
THEY'RE **SURE** TO
SUSPECT SOMETHING
WRONG WHEN THEY
FIND **THIS**
STATION'S OFF
THE AIR!

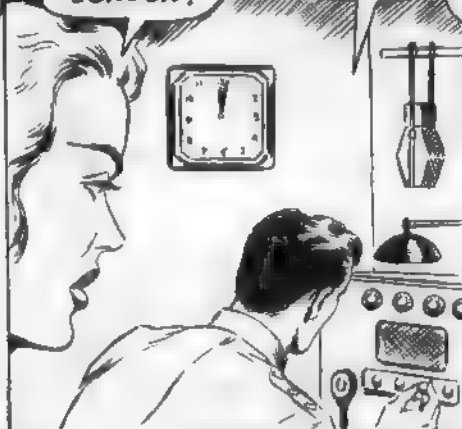
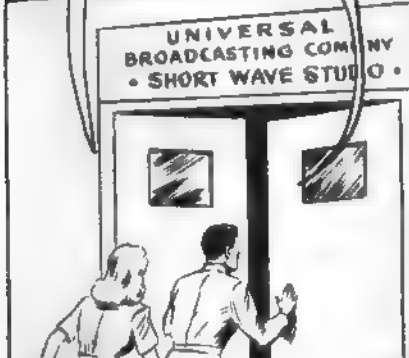
SLOWLY, FATEFULLY, THE SWEEP
HAND CIRCLES THE STUDIO
CLOCK ... 12 01 ...

12:02--
NED--YOU'RE
SURE-- **NOTHING**
FROM
LONDON?

POSITIVE!
NOT A PEEP
FROM **PARIS**,
EITHER!

MAYBE SOME-
THING **ELSE**
RELEASED THE
BEYONDERS,
NED! IF AN
ENEMY NATION
FOUND A WAY
TO USE
SUPERNATURAL
FORCES---

NOPE-- MOSCOW
AND PEIPING
ARE SILENT,
TOO! IT'S NOT
A SECRET
WEAPON,
JEAN-- **IT'S**
DOOM--DOOM
FOR THE
ENTIRE
WORLD!



THEN-- BREAKING THE SILENCE LIKE
A LIGHTNING BOLT--

ATTENTION!
ATTENTION!

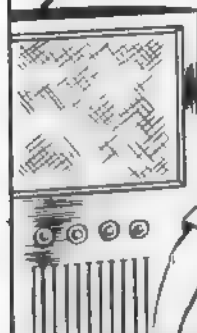
WE AREN'T
ALONE, NED--
WE CAN'T
BE-- WHEN
SOMEONE
ELSE IS
BROAD-
CASTING!

IT'S COMING
FROM THAT
TV SET--
I'LL SWITCH
ON THE
SCREEN!

AS THE BLURRED IMAGE COMES HORRIBLY INTO
FOCUS--

GOOD
HEAVENS!

I AM THE LEADER OF THE BEYONDERS!
I HAVE A MESSAGE-- A MESSAGE
FOR THE **ONLY TWO HUMANS IN**
THE WORLD WHO HAVE NOT
VANISHED INTO THE REALM
OF THE UNSEEN!



WE BEYONDERS ARE SO EVIL THAT OUR SOULS
NEVER KNEW LIFE! BUT WE CAN SENSE WHEN
A HUMAN IS ABOUT TO DIE-- WE SEND A
BEYONDER TO SEE IF WE CAN CLAIM THE
SPIRIT-- BECAUSE **THAT** WILL ADMIT US TO
THE WORLD OF THE LIVING! WE HAVE TRIED
BILLIONS OF TIMES-- WE HAVE WATCHED
THE DEATH THROES OF THE WORST
MURDERERS AND TYRANTS IN HISTORY--
BUT **NONE** HAVE BEEN FIENDISH ENOUGH
TO YIELD A SPIRIT TO **US**!

BUT THE BEYONDER WHO WAS SENT TO WATCH THE
DEATH OF DR WILLARD-- AND WAS MADE VISIBLE FOR
THE FIRST TIME BY THE ELECTRON-CHARGED ATMO-
SPHERE-- **THAT** BEYONDER DISCOVERED THE WORLD
IS **OURS**! EVERY LIVING ORGANISM HAS BEEN FATED
FOR SOMETHING **WORSE** THAN DEATH-- THEY'VE
BEEN SWEEPED INTO THE INVISIBLE
WORLD OF NOTHINGNESS--
FOREVER!



AS NED SWITCHES OFF THE CHILLING FEATURES--

TO THINK IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED IN A SPLIT SECOND FLASH, NED! **MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, MYRIADS OF ANIMALS HAVE VANISHED-- BUT IT'S LIKE AN UNENDING TRANCE-- THEY'RE NOT EVEN AWARE IT HAS HAPPENED!**

WAIT--THE MESON CHAIN REACTION **DID SPREAD** ACROSS THE EARTH IN A SINGLE INSTANT-- BUT THE FISSION IS STILL UNDER CONTROL IN ONE PLACE-- **THE CYCLOTRON!**

IT'S EASY TO FIGURE ROUGHLY HOW LONG THE MESONS IN THE CYCLOTRON WILL LAST! ACCORDING TO THAT-- EVERY LIVING BEING IS GOING THROUGH ITS **LAST HOUR OF INVISIBLE EXISTENCE!** ONCE THE CHAIN REACTION IN THE CYCLOTRON IS COMPLETE, THAT WILL BE THE END-- **THE DAY THE WORLD DIED!**

BABY-- IT'S NOT TOO LATE **YET!** THE FISSION PROCESS CAN BE **REVERSED.. IF WE REACH THE LABORATORY SOON ENOUGH!**

NED.. FOR MY SAKE-- **DON'T TRY!** YOU'RE BOUND TO BE CAUGHT BY ONE OF THE BEYONDERS-- AND THEN WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME-- **THE ONLY LIVING CREATURE IN A WORLD OF HORROR?**



BUT IF WE CAN **END** THE HORROR, JEAN-- IF WE CAN RESTORE THE WORLD AND SEND THOSE CREEPS BACK TO THEIR UNSEEN EXILE-- ISN'T IT WORTH A TRY? WHAT WILL LIFE MEAN ANYWAY-- IF WE **DON'T TRY?**

SOON AFTERWARD--

IT'S HOPELESS, NED-- THEY'LL KNOW IT'S **YOU** THE SECOND THEY DETECT SOMEONE IN THE LABORATORY-- IT CAN'T BE ANYONE **ELSE!**

YOU'RE WRONG, BABY--IT **COULD** BE THE **ELECTRONIC ROBOT** DR WILLARD INVENTED FOR EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES! IT CAN'T THINK-- IT CAN'T **DO** ANYTHING TO HELP US-- **EXCEPT TRICK THE BEYONDERS INTO THINKING IT'S ME!**

BEYONDERS OWN THE EARTH!

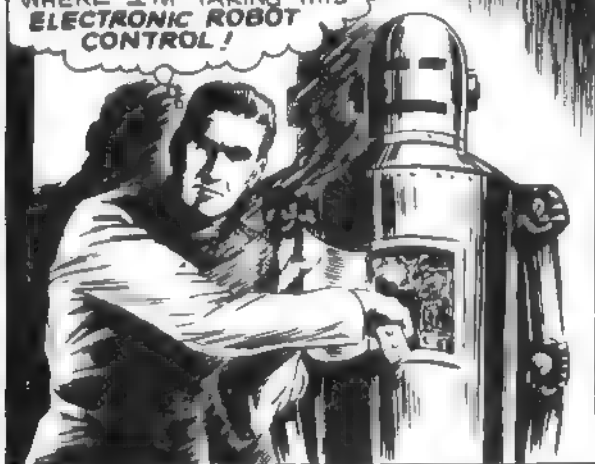
BEYONDERS OWN THE EARTH!

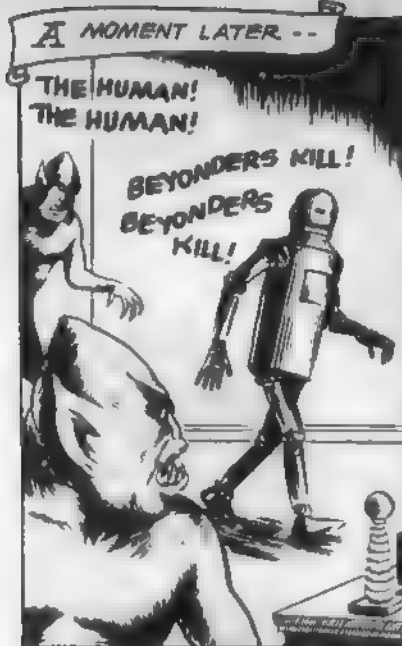


THEN-- WITH THE HOARSE BREATHING OF THE BEYONDERS RASPING FROM THE SHADOWS--

THEY HAVEN'T SPOTTED ME YET! GOOD THING IT'S NEARLY DARK OVER AT THE RADIOACTIVE VAULT -- BECAUSE **THAT'S** WHERE I'M TAKING THIS **ELECTRONIC ROBOT CONTROL!**

SO FAR-- SO GOOD! NOW WE'LL SEE HOW THOSE CREEPS REACT-- WHEN THE ROBOT PLODS PAST THEM IN SEMI-DARKNESS!

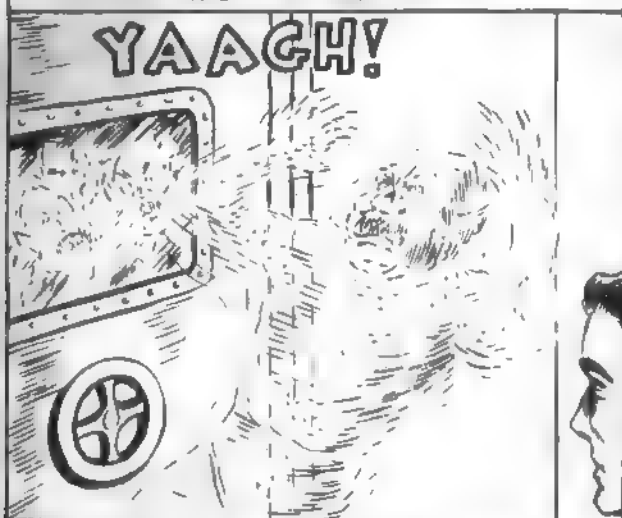




WITH THE UNSWERVING PURPOSE OF A MACHINE-- A MACHINE
MOTIVATED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE MAN WHO INVENTED IT--



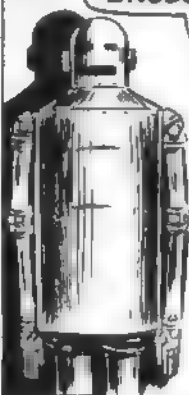
IN THE NEXT INSTANT-- ECHOING THROUGH THE
LABORATORY AND THROUGH THE CITY--
WHEREVER THE STALKING BEYONDERS REEL
INTO THE AGONY OF OBLIVION--



A MOMENT LATER--

THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES
ARE GONE, NED--THE CYCLOTRON
HAS STARTED A REVERSE
FISSION PROCESS THAT WILL
AFFECT MESONS EVERY-
WHERE-- BUT DID IT
HAPPEN SOON
ENOUGH?

LISTEN! I CAN'T
TRUST MY EARS--
AT THIS STAGE--
I WANT TO BE
SURE I'M
REALLY HEARING
THINGS!



NED-- IT'S A BIRD--
SINGING RIGHT
OUTSIDE THE
WINDOW!

AND
AUTO
HORNS!

I HAD A QUEER
FEELING A WHILE
BACK, CASSIDY--
JUST A KIND
OF FLASH IN
FRONT OF MY
EYES!

YEAH--
SO DID I!
PROBABLY
THE WEATHER--
BUT WHY
COMPLAIN--
WE'RE
ALIVE,
AREN'T
WE?

ALIVE! NED--WE'LL
NEVER BE ABLE
TO EXPLAIN
WHAT A
CLOSE
CALL IT
WAS!

NOPE--WE'RE
THE ONLY ONES
WHO KNOW HOW
CLOSELY LIFE HUNG IN
THE BALANCE, HONEY--
WHEN THE BEYONDERS
TOOK OVER FOR A RULE
OF HORROR--THE DAY
THE WORLD DIED!





ATOMIC SCIENTISTS HAVE LONG REALIZED HOW CLOSELY MOLECULAR MOTION RESEMBLES LIFE ITSELF --- LIFE IN ITS MOST PRIMITIVE AND UNPREDICTABLE FORM! SO FAR, DR. DAN WARREN'S ROBOT HAS BEEN THE ONLY LINK BETWEEN REALITY AND THE SUPERNATURAL --- BETWEEN THE HUMAN MIND AND BRUTE FORCE --- BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT CAN BE SPANNED IN THE DARKNESS BY A HORRIBLE MISSTEP OF SCIENCE?

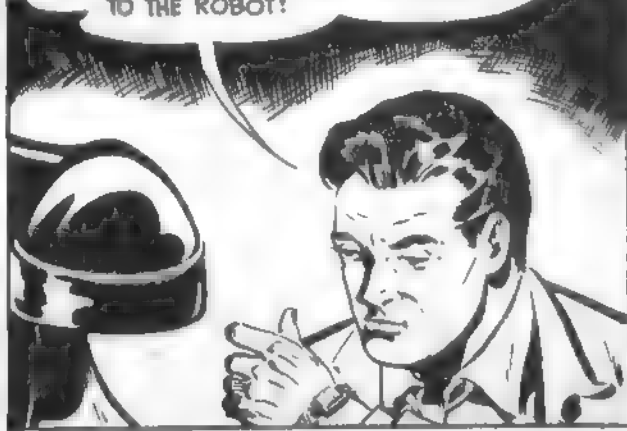
ONE NIGHT---AT DR. DAN WARREN'S HOME---

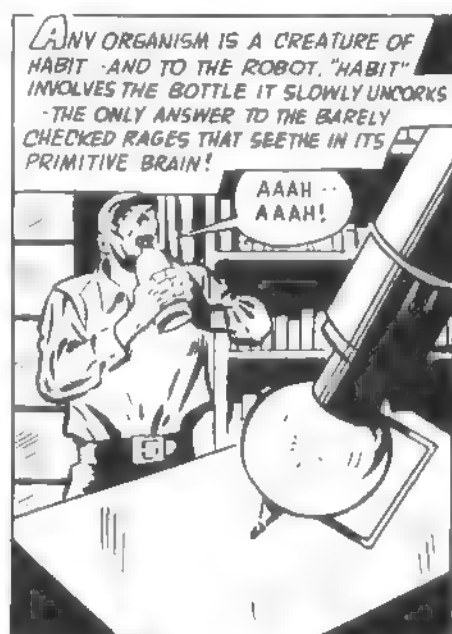
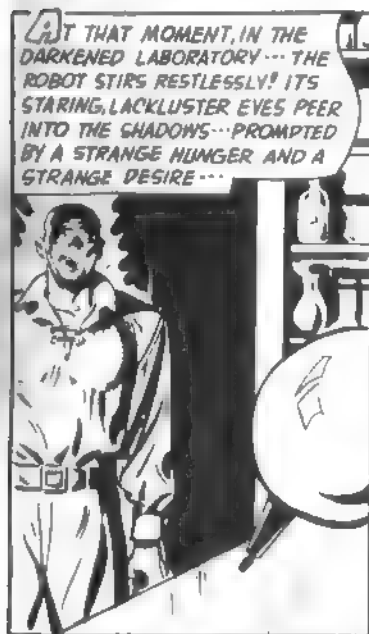
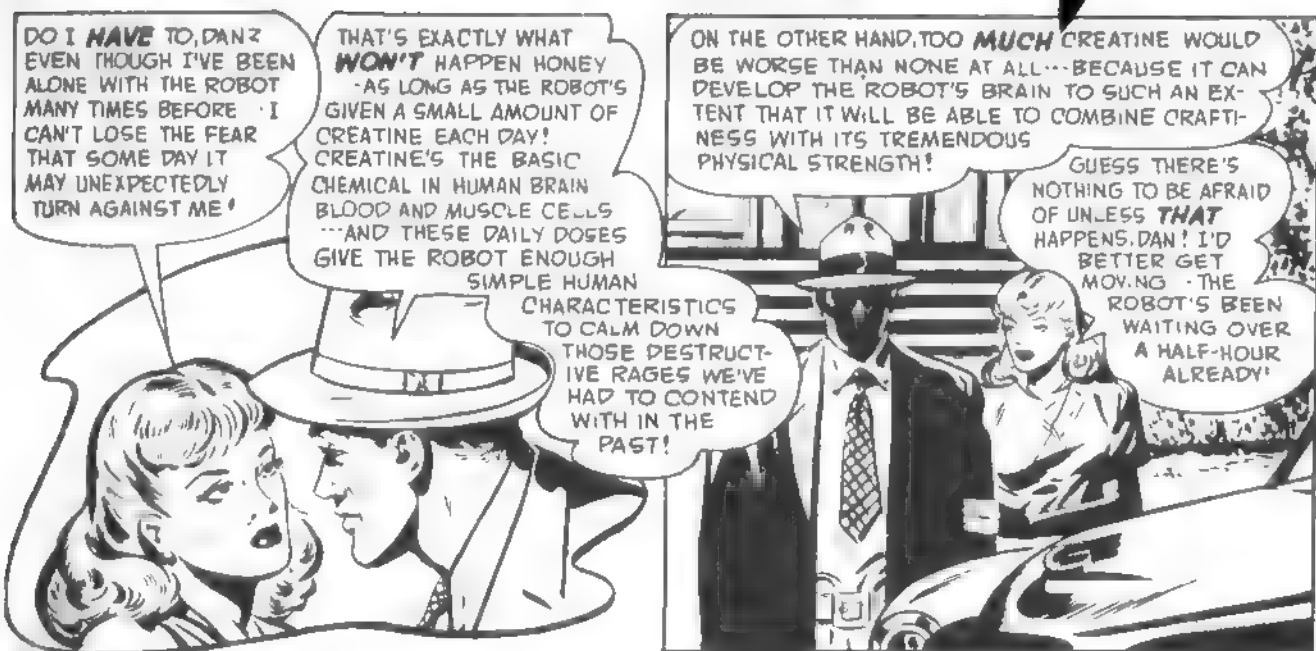
HAVE YOU HAD ANY FURTHER NEWS ABOUT THE TERRIBLE MINE CAVE-IN AT COPPER MOUNTAIN, DAN?

I'M WAITING FOR A PHONE CALL NOW! COPPER MOUNTAIN'S JUST THIRTY MILES AWAY--- AND THE MINE OFFICIALS HAVE ALERTED ALL SCIENTISTS IN THE AREA, HOPING THEY'LL FIND A WAY TO FREE THE MEN TRAPPED IN A SHAFT DEEP INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN!



MEANWHILE, THE **ROBOT** SHOULD BE GIVEN HIS DAILY DOSE OF **CREATINE** --- AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS, HE'S LEARNED TO EXPECT IT ALMOST ON THE MINUTE! SINCE I HAVE TO WAIT HERE, MARCIA, IT WOULD HELP A LOT IF YOU WENT TO THE LAB AND GOT THE CYCLOTRON TUNED UP--- AFTER YOU'VE GIVEN THE CREATINE TO THE ROBOT!





THAT'S THE FIRST THING DAN
TAUGHT YOU... **NEVER TOUCH
ANYTHING IN THE LABORATORY!**
NOW YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL HE
GETS HERE AND MAKES A FRESH
SUPPLY OF CREATIVE! GET BACK
TO YOUR ROOM... **AND DON'T
STIR UNTIL DAN
ARRIVES!**



I'M SORRY I HAD TO BE SO
STRICT... BUT ONCE THE ROBOT'S
BEEN GIVEN AN ORDER IN
THAT KIND OF TONE, RED-HOT
IRONS COULDN'T BUDGE IT!
NOW I'D BETTER GET THE
CYCLOTRON TURNED ON...
THERE'S A BARE POSSIBILITY
THAT DAN WILL FIND SOME
WAY TO USE THE BEAM TO
HELP THOSE TRAPPED
MINERS!



*Then... RISING ABOVE THE EERIE
HUM OF THE CYCLOTRON...*

STRANGE... I FORGOT TO CLEAR
AWAY THE BROKEN BOTTLE OF
CREATIVE... AND THE LIQUID'S
GIVING OFF A PULSATING GLOW
...JUST AS IF IT WERE
MOVING!



... **BUT LIVING** ... IN A FORM OF LIFE THAT
GIVES NEW MEANING TO SHUDDERING TERROR!

I... I MUSTN'T LET FEAR GET THE UPPER
HAND! IT'S JUST A BEING FORMED BY
THE ACTION OF THE CYCLOTRON BEAM
ON THE CREATIVE... AND MAYBE IT
ISN'T AS EVIL AS IT LOOKS!



FOR A MOMENT,
MARCIA STARES UN-
BELIEVINGLY... BE-
CAUSE THE CREATIVE
IS MOVING... HEAVING
AND REARING IN THE
LURID LIGHT OF THE
CYCLOTRON BEAM!
AND NOT ONLY
MOVING...



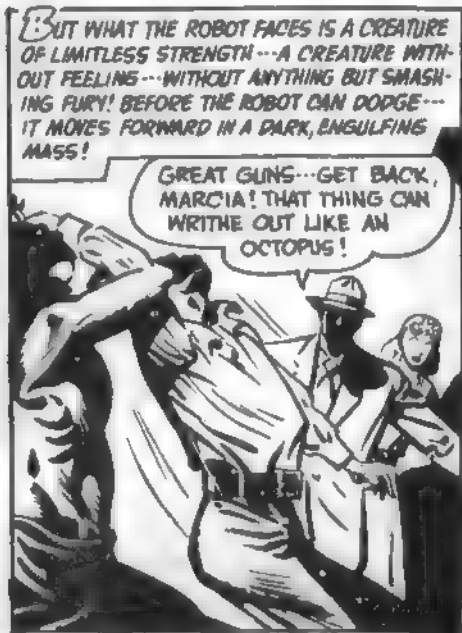
**SUDDENLY... AS IF A DIABOLICAL INTELLIGENCE
SEIZED UPON AN ANSWER...**

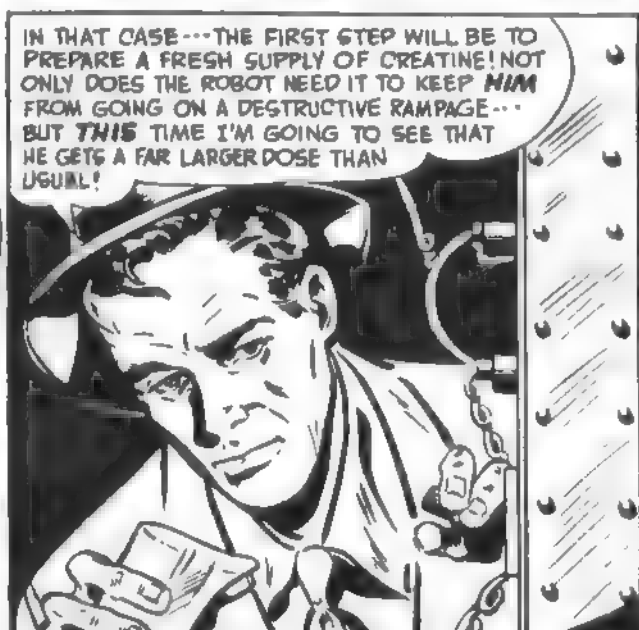


WITH A SINGLE CONVULSIVE CONSTRICTION...

THAT THING **UNDERSTOOD** ME!
IT'S SHOWING ME WHAT IT'S LIKE
... A BEING OF FIENDISH
STRENGTH AND FIENDISH
INTELLIGENCE!







MAYBE THE ROBOT **CAN'T** MATCH THE MONSTER'S STRENGTH---BUT TWO THINGS ARE PRETTY PLAIN AT THIS STAGE! FIRST---BY GIVING THE ROBOT AN UNUSUALLY HEAVY DOSE OF CREATINE, HE'LL BE ABLE TO OUTSMART THE MONSTER! WE'LL BE RUNNING THE TERRIBLE RISK OF HAVING THE ROBOT USE ITS NEW-FOUND MENTAL POWERS TO ITS OWN ADVANTAGE---GIVING US **TWO** MENACES TO COPE WITH INSTEAD OF ONE---BUT THAT'S THE CHANCE WE'VE GOT TO TAKE!



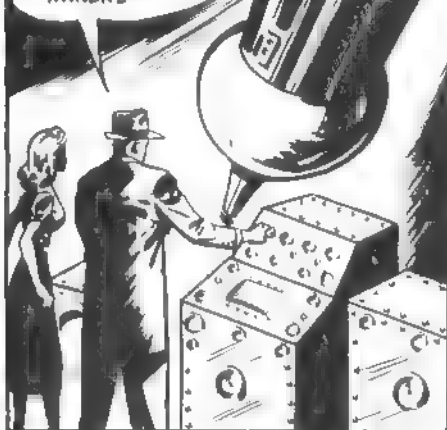
AS FOR MY SECOND HUNCH, MARCIA---I HAVE AN IDEA THAT THE MONSTER SENSES A DEADLY RIVAL IN THE ROBOT---AND THAT IT WON'T STRAY FAR UNTIL THEY'VE HAD A FINISH FIGHT!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT! THE ROBOT'S ACTING AS IF **SOMETHING** IT HATES IS VERY CLOSE!

GARRRGH!



THE CREATINE WILL BE READY AS SOON AS I'VE SENT A LOW-VOLTAGE ELECTRICAL CHARGE THROUGH IT! **THEN** I HOPE THE ROBOT WILL FIND SOME WAY TO STOP THE MONSTER---SO THAT **I'LL** BE FREE TO DO SOMETHING FOR THOSE TRAPPED MINERS!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT---



GOOD HEAVENS---WHAT HAPPENED? CREATINE NEVER REACTED LIKE **THAT** BEFORE!

NOPE---AND THE LAB WIRING SYSTEM HASN'T BEEN OUT OF WHACK BEFORE, EITHER! THE MONSTER'S RAMPAGE BLEW OUT MY CURRENT CONTROLS---AND SINCE CREATINE IS CHEMICALLY VERY SIMILAR TO **NITRO GLYCERINE**, IT EXPLODED UNDER THE SURGE OF HIGH-TENSION ELECTRICITY!



WELL---WHAT DO WE DO **NOW**? EVEN IF YOU HAD TIME TO MAKE MORE CREATINE---THAT BLAST DESTROYED ALL YOUR NECESSARY EQUIPMENT!

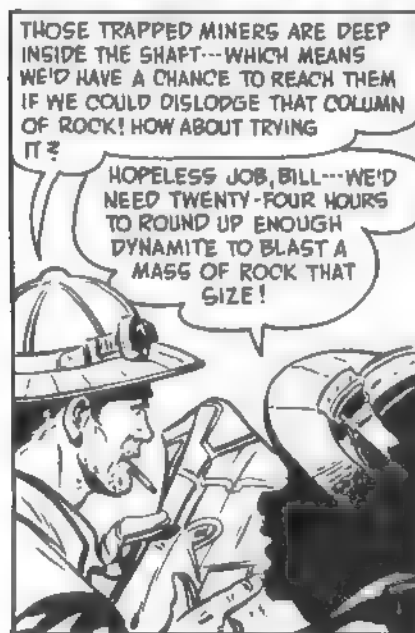
WAIT A MINUTE! IF **CREATINE** ACTS THAT WAY UNDER A HIGH TENSION CURRENT---**WHY WOULDN'T THE MONSTER?**



IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF WE COULD DESTROY THAT THING WITHOUT HAVING TO USE THE ROBOT---BUT HOW IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING TO LURE THE MONSTER TO A SPOT WITH A SUFFICIENTLY HEAVY CURRENT?

WE'VE GOT IT RIGHT HERE, MARCIA---BUT I'M GAMBLING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF KILLING TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE! WE ARE GOING TO USE THE ROBOT---TO LURE THE MONSTER TO THE SCENE OF THAT MINE CAVE-IN AT COPPER MOUNTAIN!





DAN...YOU CAN'T STAY HERE! IT'S COMING CLOSER!

BETTER SCURRY OFF WITH THE OTHERS, HONEY! THE ONE THING THE ROBOT NEEDS NOW 'S COACHING...AND I'VE GOT TO STICK AROUND AND SEE THAT HE GETS IT!



A MOMENT LATER...AS A DEFIANT ROAR ECHOES AGAINST THE SLOPES BEHIND WHICH A SCORE OF MEN ARE ENTOMBED...

GARRRGH!

THERE THEY GO! THE ROBOT AND THE MONSTER ARE SQUARING OFF!

I CAN'T GUESS WHAT DR. WARREN HAS IN MIND...BUT I WOULDN'T GIVE A PLUGGED NICKEL FOR WHAT'LL BE LEFT OF THAT ROBOT A MINUTE FROM NOW!



BLINDED BY RAGE...THE ROBOT DISREGARDS DAN'S FRANTIC SHOUT!

ROBOT...DON'T TRY TO HIT IT! YOU'RE GETTING TOO CLOSE!

YARRRGH!



Then...BEFORE THE ROBOT CAN LAND A SECOND BLOW...

AAAAGH!



INCH BY INCH...THE STIFLING MASS CLOSES ON ITS STRUGGLING PREY!

BREAK AWAY! YOU CAN DO IT, ROBOT...YOU'VE GOT TO!

AAAH...
AAAH...



With a FINAL DESPERATE EFFORT...

GLAAAGH!



PULL DOWN THAT POWER LINE THERE, ROBOT! QUICK...WHILE YOU'VE GOT A CHANCE!



AS THE MONSTER STALKS TOWARD THE ROBOT
---PANTING FOR THE KILL---

YOU HAVEN'T A NERVOUS SYSTEM, ROBOT
---SO YOU WON'T BE HARMED BY THAT
HIGH VOLTAGE CABLE! **HOLD ONTO
IT---AND BACK TOWARD THAT
COLUMN OF ROCK!**



Then...at the instant the black brute charges---

GLAAAGH!

**WATCH YOURSELF,
ROBOT! THROW
THE POWER LINE
INTO THE AIR---
AND THEN
DUCK!**



**THE CABLE
HITS THE
AWFUL BRUTE
---AND IN A
BLAST FELT
FOR MILES
AROUND---**

BOOM!

**THAT'S ENOUGH TO SEND
THE MONSTER SKY-HIGH, ROBOT
---TOGETHER WITH WHAT'S
LEFT OF THAT MASS OF
ROCK!**



AS THE SMOKE CLEARS---

LOOK THERE!

OH, DAN---I CAN'T
REMEMBER WHEN
I'VE BEEN MORE
FRIGHTENED!

PART OF THE
SHAFT HAS BEEN
EXPOSED BY THE BLAST
---AND WE'RE SURE TO
FIND THE TRAPPED MEN
JUST A FEW HUNDRED
FEET BEYOND!



DEEP INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN---

THEY'RE BEHIND THOSE
COLLAPSED TIMBERS,
DR. WARREN---BUT
WE'RE FAR TOO CLOSE
TO USE DYNAMITE
THIS TIME!

IT'S UP TO
YOU, ROBOT!
**GET
THROUGH!**



**RELENTLESS AS A BULLDOZER
---THE ROBOT PLOWS FORWARD!**

CRRRRUNCH!



Later...WITH THE MINERS RESCUED---

I'VE NEVER MET
ANYTHING AS
HORRIBLE AS THAT
MONSTER, DAN---
BUT WITH THE ROBOT'S
HELP, YOU ACTUALLY
MANAGED TO USE
ITS EVIL POWERS
TO SAVE LIVES!

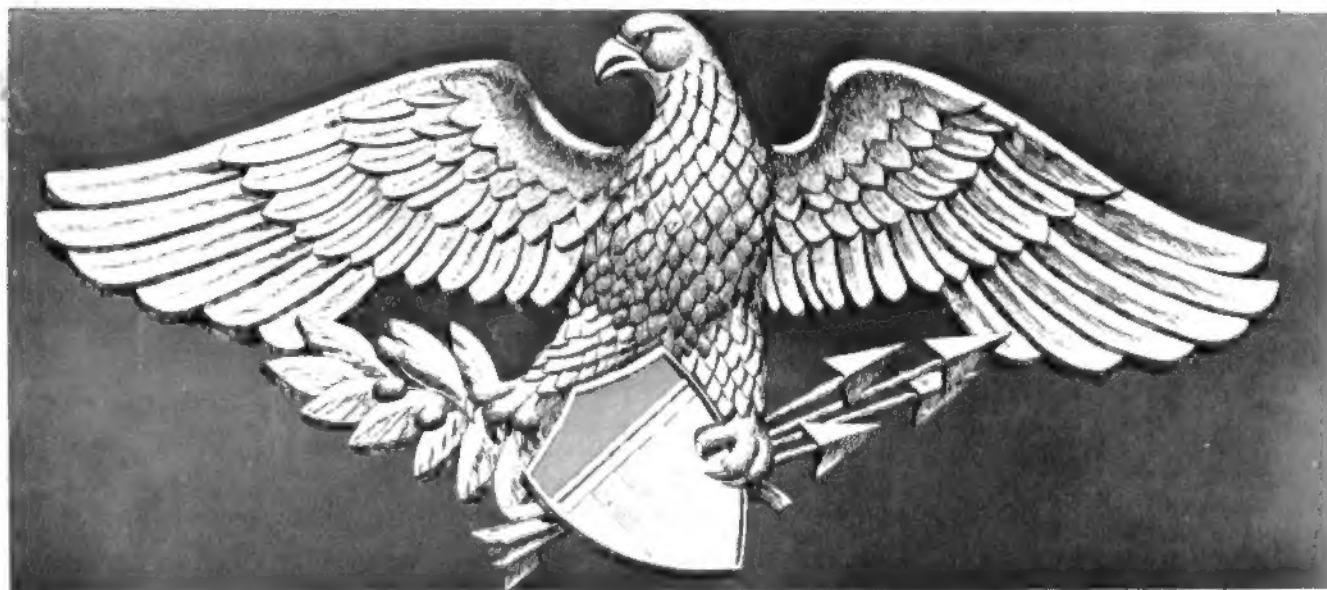
MAYBE THAT'S
WHAT SCIENCE IS
FOR, MONEY! BUT
WHEN I THINK
OF THE STRANGE
BEINGS FROM OUT
OF THE **UNKNOWN**
THAT CAN BURST
FORTH ANY MINUTE, JUST
AS THE MONSTER DID---
I REALIZE HOW MUCH OF
A FIGHT THE ROBOT AND I
STILL HAVE AHEAD
OF US!



**BRISTLING TERROR CONFRONTS THE
SPIRIT OF FRANKENSTEIN WITH A CHILL
ING CHALLENGE IN AN EARLY ISSUE!**

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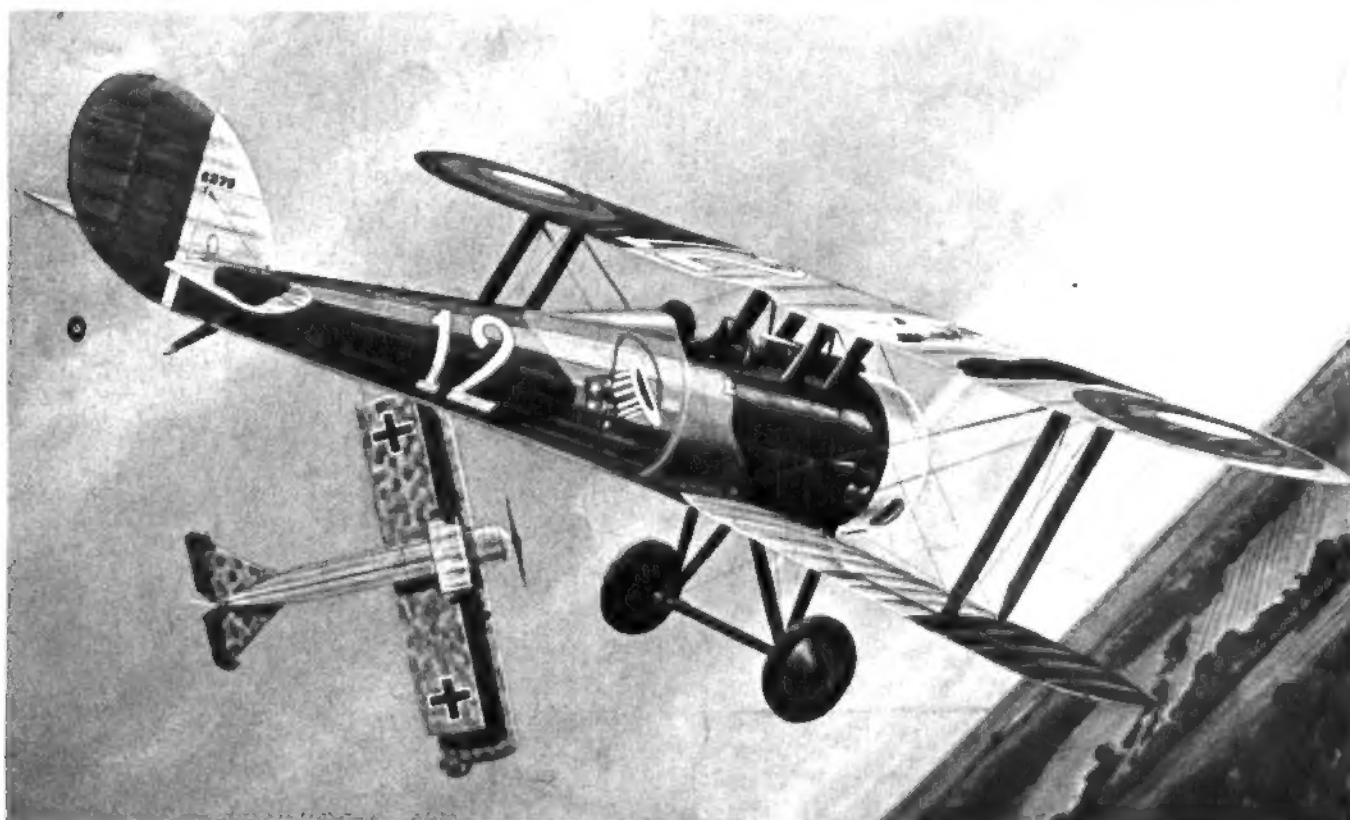
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